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German small airplane on a world trip lands in Canada

Reunion in Vancouver: Round-the-world flyer visits his father

Pilot Uwe Thomas Carstensen (60) and his co-pilot Hans Christian Albertsen (59) are currently flying around the world in a single-motor airplane. They have already had many experiences on their stops to date, but the stopover in Canada is a particular event for the pilot: Carstensen will meet up with his 88-year-old father, who emigrated to Canada in 1953. On August 29 the Cessna T260H will land at the Vancouver International Airport, and the round-the-world flyers will take four days for the reunion at Logan Lake.

Father always drawn back to Canada

Whilst planning the world trip it was obvious to Carstensen from the start that his route would have to go via Vancouver so he could see his father. Carsten Hans Carstensen visited his family in Germany every two-to-three years – so father and son haven't seen each other for some years. Fifty-four years ago father Carstensen went to Canada and earned his money by repairing trucks in the surface mining industry. Initially he worked in the regions around Montreal and Winnipeg, later for a mining company in the Rocky Mountains. His family was actually supposed to follow him, but his then wife didn't want to leave her homeland of Germany.

Rose-painted airplane in Canadian airspace for several days

In the meantime, the round-the-world flyer's Cessna is also known as the rose-painted plane. Their Cessna T260H is decorated with pictures of red roses and inscribed with the name "Marie" – a declaration of love from the pilot to his wife Maria Carstensen.

After farewelling father Carstensen, the two pilots have several long-haul flights straight across Canada ahead of them. On September 3 they will fly from Vancouver to Fort McMurray; one day later, a landing in Churchill is planned. On September 6 the trip

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continues via Hudson Bay and further on to Iqaluit, before Carstensen and Albertsen leave Canada for Greenland.

World trip began mid-March

The pair Carstensen/Albertsen is the 139th crew since 1924 to fly around the globe in a single-motor plane. So far they have landed in South-East Europe, the Middle East, Pakistan, India, South-East Asia, Australia, Indonesia Malaysia, Cambodia, China, Taiwan, Japan, Russia and Alaska. The route back will take them via Greenland, Iceland and Great Britain to Germany, where the journey will end on September 14 in Hannover.

The entire flying route, the pilots' travel journals, logbook entries and background reports on the round-the-world trip can be found at <http://www.globeflight-rallye.com>.



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