

# Canada Weekly

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## Canadian Ultralights take to the skies

A new breed of aircraft is following the Canadian pioneering tradition. Thousands of pilots are now flying at an economical cost undreamt of a few years ago when aircraft operating expenses were rapidly increasing. The Ultralight aircraft have arrived!

There are already more than 20 000 Ultralights flying in the United States and approximately 1 200 registered in Canada. The market has rapidly expanded since 1975 when John Moody casually strapped an engine on his hang glider and flew it over Long Lake near Milwaukee.

The Ultralight aircraft is well-named. A single-seater cannot weigh more than 130 kilograms which is less than one-quarter of the weight of a conventional small aircraft. This restriction has thoroughly tested the ingenuity of designers who have produced a wide variety of craft.

Among the best of these are the Canadian Ultralights.

### Lazair

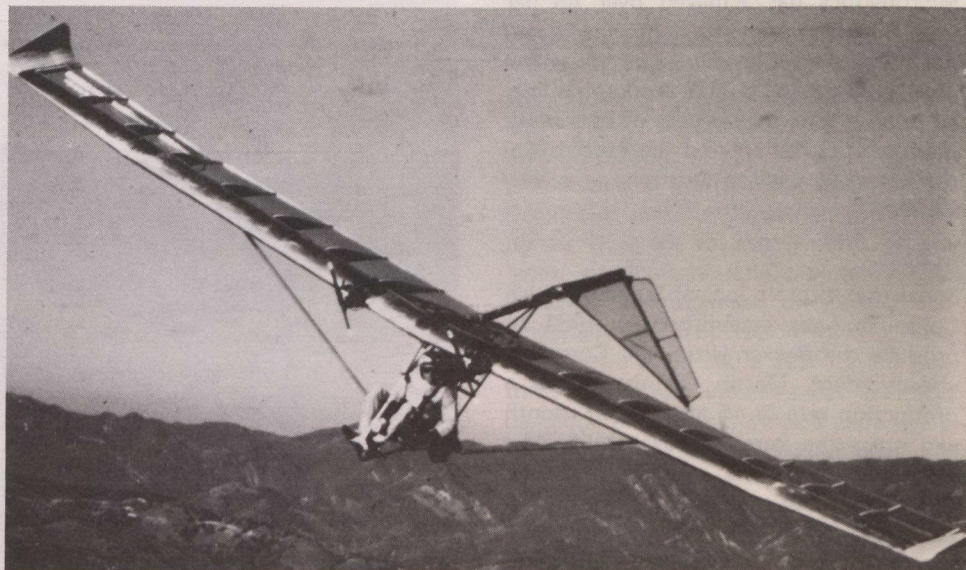
Ultraflight Sales Limited, of Port Colborne, Ontario, is establishing a

reputation for Canada with its *Lazair* similar to what Performance Sailcraft did with the *Laser* sailboat. Offering quality and performance, the *Lazair* enables the enthusiast to take to the air for an investment of less than \$7 000 plus about 150 hours of his time assembling the aircraft. For an extra \$1 200 he can add a set of floats.

The *Lazair*, designed by Dale Kramer, has developed a loyal following. Kramer's original design has remained superficially unchanged but many improvements have been incorporated since the aircraft's debut in 1979 including an optional streamlined, fibre-reinforced plastic cockpit enclosure.

Most of the *Lazair's* flying surfaces are covered with Tedlar (a transparent plastic film) giving a fragile, gossamer appearance to what is really an exceptionally strong structure. This aircraft is designed to withstand four times the force of gravity and, although not recommended by the company, can loop-the-loop.

A feature article in the US publication *Ultralight Pilot* concludes that the *Lazair* represents probably the best in-



*Ultraflight's Lazair, with its gossamer-like wings, gives a deceptively fragile appearance to what is a very strong structure.*