

# ERIC LANGSTROTH

## Pioneer - Speed Record - Inducted 2009



Eric Langstroth's 249.7 mph Vega at Bonneville, 2006 (Eric Langstroth collection)

By Alyn Edwards

New Westminster's Eric Langstroth calls himself "one of the *Original Fast Guys*" with cousins Steve and Dave Green. A long-time drag car builder and veteran salt flats competitor, he was the first Canadian to run over 200 mph at Bonneville. Last summer, his 1974 Chevrolet Vega set a world land speed record in its class during last summer's 60<sup>th</sup> annual Bonneville Speed Week. The 1,000 horsepower engine propelled the Vega to a world speed record of 254 miles per hour in the B Fuel Coupe class. The top speed recorded by the highly modified Vega was 258 mph. In 2006, Eric driving his Vega earned a world speed record of 245 mph powered by gasoline. This 56-year-old master mechanic, whose day job is metal fabricating and set building for the film industry, built a high boy when he was 18 years old. He began drag racing a 1955 Ford powered by a 410 Edsel engine in Penticton in the

1970s. His next car was a Chevy II with a tunnel ram manifold sporting dual four barrel carburetors sticking out of the hood. Finally, he and his cousins got serious about drag racing and put together a 1977 Rallye Sport Camaro powered by an LS7 454 cu. in. engine to run at Boundary Bay and Mission. He got interested in salt flats racing in 1972 when he opened a business in New Westminster called *E.F. Sharp* to build chassis and other

components for modified and race cars. Over the decades, Eric and his cousins have gradually improved the performance of the Vega to the point where it reigns as the world's fastest car in its class.



Eric Langstroth, 1974