



# The Crownlines

The Newsletter of the

National Capital Balloon Club  
Club de montgolfiers de la capitale nationale

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## Fall Flying (*Any Flying*)—At Last! Fall Fling at Bill's Place

### President's Message

Welcome to the new year of ballooning. The previous year was frustrating for the Club and the Executive as there didn't seem a willingness on the part of the members to be active. With the addition of new pilots in the area it is hoped there will be more activity for the club members. Also planned for the upcoming year will be a couple of fly days. In addition, we have completed the Club Mini-Balloon and it is ready to be used. There will be procedures and rules for using the Mini. The Executive is currently developing these rules and procedures.

Let's hope Spring and the nice weather arrives soon so that we may all enjoy ballooning and the camaraderie that participating brings.

*Dave Lopushinsky*  
April 2007



Tulip Festival 2007

### Fall Fly Day at Bill's

Saturday November 3rd has been set aside for the last official balloon club get together before winter sets in.

We are planning a fly out, and pot luck lunch & supper.  
Place: Wild Bill's new digs... 360 flying circle NO PZ's; You can fly for hours! 6220 County Road 10, Fournier Ontario, K0B 1R0 (just Google the place). My official address is Vankleek Hill, but Fournier is just a few km's away...

1 h from Ottawa east end; 1 h 20 min from Dorval.  
Time: Fly morning sunrise 7:44 Fly sunset is 17:47  
Flight times 8:00 am & 3:30pm ( weather permitting)  
Arrive early and stay late. We will have lunch at noon for those who fly in the AM  
PLEASE E-MAIL AND LET US KNOW WHO'S COMING EARLY AND HOW MANY CREW.  
Supper is Bill's Famous spaghetti sauce....

*Bill Whelan*

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## Les Welsh's Basket Takes On New Life



Wicked shadow

*Photo credit Dave Lopushinsky*

Les has been gracious enough to allow me the use of his basket for the last year and a half. However from the previous storage and use this past year it had begun to show its years. The basket is a British Cameron from 1988. A call to Cameron Balloons USA netted some new Rattan (wicker) plus a trip to Zellers for a kiddie pool for this immense refurbishing task. In addition I purchased some quality rope for some extra strength and colour in certain areas. How hard to could this task be and really how long could it take?

The old wicker came apart rather easily but not quickly. The garbage can on the other hand filled up rather quickly. I had to let the Rattan soak in my kiddie pool for at least three days to make it pliable for the up coming task. Cutting some of the old rope out became a task unto itself. I finally got all the pieces out that I was going to repair. Now to start put the new product back in.

With what I thought was very flexible wicker I proceeded with enthusiasm. For the most part it bent as expected with a few exceptions. Getting the right weave was a challenge but it doesn't look too bad. To do some lower parts I needed to jump in and out of the basket. I was OK a day later but two days later my legs hurt. My fingers hurt from bending the wicker so many times. The basket needed some colour.

With that in mind I wove in some coloured rope, which also added some strength and flexibility. Also doing some research on the Internet led me the Wicker Woman who had some good ideas for painting wicker. Following some of her ideas I added some more colour by way of paint on a few strands of wicker. However, this took care of the outside of the basket. What about the inside of the basket?

To that end I added a sheet of thin plywood between the tank floorboards then topped it all with coloured standing pads. Next year will be the uprights and padding.

*Dave Lopushinsky*

## 'LeslieLude' 2007



Leslielude 2007

*photo courtesy Leslie Manion*

For as long as we have been in Ottawa (20 years this August), Winterlude and my birthday have always corresponded. In the old days of a real Winterlude Fiesta, there was usually a birthday cake that was shared with Lorraine Lafrance, Carolyn Connely, and Debbie Wright who also celebrated a February birthday.

As time went on, the balloon aspect waned until last year when I turned 50 and husband Dave organized the Jubilee Balloon Birthday Bash. He tied my birthday into balloons again, and we had a mini event with friends and balloonists coming up to Ottawa. From New Hampshire, we had Ron Cassidy and Gary Morgan; Bill and Lorna Kavelman came from Ayr (near Kitchener-Waterloo), and Darrelyn Snider and Kelly Gillis came from Sussex. We had a Saturday morning flight in the west end followed by a Hawaii 5-0 party at the Legion in the evening.

This year, it was slightly lower key but no less fun. Ron came up from New Hampshire again and brought pilot Dave Brien with him. Locally, we had Bryan Tepper and Jean Drouin flying while Bill Whelan came out and supervised since he was busy with his fiery volcano at Confederation Park. After hanging around the Tim Horton's for awhile, Saturday looked like it was going to be a bit of a bust so we opted for a hearty breakfast at Louis'. Since things looked great after breakfast, we headed off to Piperville and the property of Russell and Suzanne Bourne—friends of our crew, Lina and Brian—who had offered us their huge back lot as a launch site. Four balloons took off in very calm winds—at first it seemed that they weren't going anywhere. The winds picked up slightly and everyone was off, and the lucky ones landed before the wind really picked up. After the flight, the Tepper and Wicked crews returned to Russell and Suzanne's for an outdoor picnic of champagne and cookies. Then it was off to the American Embassy where FBI agent, Bryan, gave us a tour. Although the evening get together was meant to be a chilli party at Casa Skyman, we hadn't been home long enough to make it so it turned into a pizza kitchen party. Next morning, it was breakfast with Ron's local crew before Ron and Dave headed back home to New Hampshire.

'Leslielude' was a success with a good time had by all, and we look forward to it again next year.

*Leslie Manion*

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN BOILEAU

On Thursday, June 21st, over 850 people gathered at the Maison de la culture in Gatineau, to pay tribute to the founder of the Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Back in 1988, Jean Boileau had a vision of bringing a major balloon event to the city of Gatineau in order to raise awareness of the city throughout Canada and the world. He was successful in gathering a vast team of experts and devotees who helped mold this festival into one of the best in the world.

The tribute had originally been planned as a small 50 person event which would honour Jean and his family and bring together some of the people involved in helping get the Festival on its feet. Within days of announcing the event, the response was overwhelming and the city had to quickly respond to the demands of the public wanting to be involved.

The Board of Directors of the Festival conceptualized the event in May and the organization committee for the balloon festival quickly started planning. Balloonists from Quebec, Ontario and the United States were in attendance including several members of the NCBC. Past festival presidents, mayors, organization committee members and volunteers all gathered to have the opportunity to express their best wishes to the Boileau family.

The evening was choreographed by Joel Marc Frappier of Fleurs signés Joel Marc Frappier. His artistic direction provided all with an amazing evening of music, humour, and artistic presentations with emotional speeches by Garry Lockyer and Jean Boileau. I don't think anyone walked away without expressing what an amazing evening it had been.

Jean Boileau and his family have been very supportive of the NCBC. He saw the importance of involving the local ballooning community in the festival and he was very pleased to see so many members in attendance at his tribute. Jean, Jobanne and Alexandre came out to the Festival this past September and spent time visiting with old friends and helping out. I think many of us would agree that it was nice to see them back and getting involved. Jean is certainly a man deserving of such a fine tribute.

*Carolyn Mitrow*



Bad Halloween for pumpkins—either eaten by bats (left) or—what's this?—yup, measles (right) (Photo credit Les Welsh)



Apology

Some of you may know that I got a new computer this year, running Vista!

Well, I finally got it to work the way I wanted it to ...

My apology to all members for my slowness with The Crownlines this year.

*Les Welsh*

Submissions to The Crownlines

The last deadline for submissions to The Crownlines for this year will be Saturday, **December 1, 2007**.

Items can be submitted to Les Welsh by mail (18 Clarey Avenue, Ottawa, K1S 2R7), or by e-mail in virtually any format

It's easier to write your articles now, while you're thinking about it! Write about a Fly Day or social (with pictures that'd be great!). Or an old "memorable flight". Or anything you'd like to write or photograph to do with ballooning? (I'll scan photographs or take stills from videos if you'll loan me an original.)

**Editor of The Crownlines**

Les Welsh

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Please send a hard copy of your ad with full payment to:

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 P.O. Box 78081  
 1547 Merivale Road  
 Nepean, Ontario  
 K2G 5W2

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