



# The Crownlines

The Newsletter of the / Le journal du  
National Capital Balloon Club  
Club de montgolfières de la Capitale nationale

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## Annual General Meeting Follow Up

The 2007 Annual General Meeting was held on January 9 at Louis' Steak House with 14 people in attendance.

As there was no Nomination Committee and no nominations from the floor, the existing board agreed to let their names stand for 2008. The exception was Les Welsh who resigned. King Glover agreed to fill the position.

### 2008 Board of Directors

<b>President:</b>	David Lopushinsky
<b>Vice President:</b>	Leslie Manion
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lynne Deachman
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Carole Brassard
<b>Directors:</b>	King Glover, Bill Whelan, Debbie Wright



## Upcoming Seminar

The John Wise Balloon Society Safety Seminar will be held on March 1, 2008, at McComsey Hall, Millersville University, Millersville, PA.

Some of the instructors are Rob Wise of Firefly Balloons, Paul Petrehn of Cameron Balloons, and Beth Miller of IMC Balloon Agency.

For more information and to register, go to [www.johnwise.net](http://www.johnwise.net) and click on Safety Seminar.

## Good News for Members

Members in good standing for 2007 are automatically renewed for 2008. As well, members who renewed at Gatineau are paid through to December 2009.

Since there was very little return for the 2007 membership, the Board agreed to waive returning members' dues for 2008.

Members previous to 2007 who want to renew or new members will be required to pay the regular fees.

Please check the attached membership list to verify your information. Any corrections should be sent to Leslie at [REDACTED]

Shawn Glover completed his pilot solo in January 2007. By January 2008, he had obtained 250 hours of flight time. The follow is about his

## First Year of Flying

Shawn Glover

The first solo is a blur until I leave the ground: all I can think of is not to burn too much, and not much else. My mind was confused, with a million thoughts and fears rushing through my head, but only for a few seconds. When you come at peace, level out, and remember your training, you are immediately going for your first descent for a touch-and-go... Complete ecstasy!

### City Flying

One of my first flights over the city was with an air traffic controller/ pilot/ friend, Jean. I was not taking paying passengers at the time, and it truly was stressful. Being a new pilot, I came in and didn't take enough left (despite Jean's suggestions) and missed the field. Under the stress, it was a cut corn field landing.... F##K.

### Conquering the Chute

One of my greatest fears was the Chute, the fieldless line up the Gatineau. In 200 plus flights in a summer, it's bound to happen, and once conquered it doesn't feel so bad. You almost find solace in the fact that no matter where you travel, the balloon gods will present you with an opportunity; the only task is to grasp it when it comes because, quite often, there are no second chances.

### That Was Fast

I'm heading towards the hills, having only started to fly commercially. I'm at 2500 feet, when another pilot radios over, "We have some speed on the deck!" When I look down, I see a balloon traveling faster than I've ever seen a balloon travel. I take a gulp and put on my sun glasses to shield my pie-eyes from the passengers (being passengers they think everything is normal). I pick my group of fields and descend.

This is the fastest I've ever come in, with mechanical turbulence hundreds of feet off the trees, and wind gusts threatening to capsize the balloon. Luckily, I greased it in under shelter of trees in a large field. I was touching the ground and had ripped my top as far as it could go. My only thought was at least I'll stop when I hit the tree line at the other end of the field. Luckily, I stopped with a few feet to spare.

When my passengers crawled out, the father turns to me in all sincerity and with visible apprehension says, "There's no way that that was normal - that was really, really fast!" All I could do was reply (still under the shelter of my sun glasses), and in as calm a tone as I could muster, "Oh yeah, some are fast, some are slow, but you're right, that was one of the faster ones." Then I went for a long walk and, once out of sight, shook with fear, adrenaline, and happiness, realizing that this was a situation where I was forced to push myself to the absolute of my limits, and I loved every second of it.

### Retrospect

It's a hard thing to be a balloonist: it gives you the most pleasure imaginable, a time to socialize, and opportunities to test yourself. But with that comes some of the hardest times and many unfathomable situations.... I wouldn't trade it for the world!

## An Exclusive Invitation

Pencil in your calendar for Friday, April 4 for a late afternoon tour of the American Embassy followed by a social. At this time, the date is tentative until the Marine Corps confirms in mid-March.

This is a special invitation for Club members only, and names will have to be provided in well in advance. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Leslie at [REDACTED] so you can receive a QuickRelease when details are confirmed.

## Excerpts from the President's Report

David Lopushinsky  
January 9, 2008

This year has been somewhat frustrating, yet progressive. We did not have many fly days, socials, or meetings, but the ones we did have proved to be fun and spirited.

Once again, the NCBC had a presence at the Gatineau Festival with a table promoting the club, providing information to pilots on the TDG issue and holding a raffle. Thanks to Francoise Proulx for managing the table all weekend.

We secured the Permit of Equivalent Level of Safety as a club. This ensures club members can transport their propane tanks legally. Thanks to Gilles Tremblay and David Johns for their help and guidance. We are not out of the woods yet on this issue, and we will be meeting with the TDG people in the near future.

I want to thank all the board members for their time and efforts: Bill Whelan for hosting several socials and providing his tremendous spaghetti sauce; Les Welsh for his efforts in providing the *Crownlines* that we know require a great effort not only in producing but also in coercing members to contribute; Debbie Wright for her work as treasurer before her work commitments got too great; Carole Brassard for taking on the treasurer duties; secretary Lynne Deachman who provided the minutes and QuickReleases; and vice president Leslie Manion for her tireless work to keep me doing my work as well as for her efforts to keep the Club organized.

As it has for many years, the club functions due to the efforts of a few members. How to encourage participation remains an issue the board and membership need to address. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome and very much needed.

## Leslielude #3

Leslie Manion

Leslielude, a mid-February celebration of winter, balloons, and my birthday, is usually scheduled for the second weekend of Winterlude. Although the plan was to fly on both Saturday and Sunday, Mother Nature had other ideas. However, despite the snow and wind, it was still a grand weekend of outdoor activities and visiting with balloon friends.

Club pilot members Ron Cassidy and Gary Morgan came up from New Hampshire with pilot Mark Stodolski. Darrelyn Snider, former President of the Atlantic Balloon Fiesta, flew in from Sussex, New Brunswick as did club member Cindy Campbell who came to help Bill Whelan and crew with his Culvert of Flame/ Gutter of Heat/ Towering Inferno, amongst the ice sculptures in Confederation Park. Only a few members turned out for the Friday night social in the park, but it was a lovely mild evening and a great opportunity to check out the sculptures, enjoy a beavertail and hot chocolate, catch up with friends, and see the Flaming Culvert in action.

Since Saturday was too snowy to fly, we had to content ourselves with a big breakfast followed by a tour of the American Embassy, courtesy of everyone's favourite (and maybe only) FBI agent/legal attaché, club member, Bryan Tepper.

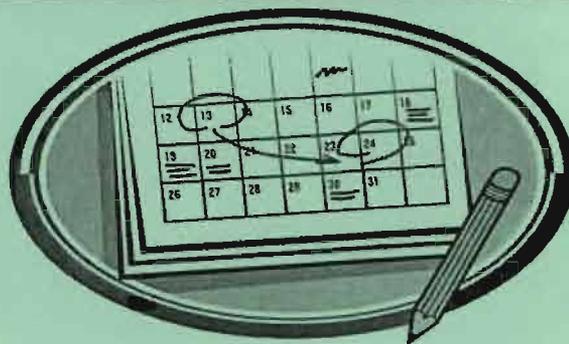
From there, it was on to Jacques Cartier Park to enjoy the snow sculptures and slide down the ice slides. It was great fun acting like a kid again!

Another big breakfast took the place of a Sunday morning flight since the weather had turned very cold and a brisk wind was blowing. While the Americans hit the road, the rest of us took shelter for the day.

We look forward to 2009 and more flyable weather and, as always, great times with balloonists.



# Festival Calendar 2008



4 <sup>th</sup> Annual XLTA	Amherst, MA	May 16 - 18
Red, White, & Blue Balloon Rally	Letchworth, NY	May 23 - 26
Quechee Hot Air Balloon Festival	Quechee, VT	June 13 - 15
Kinsmen Cornwall Lift Off	Cornwall, ON	July 10 - 13
Stoweflake Balloon Festival	Stowe, VT	July 11 - 13
Warren County Farmers Fair	Belvidere, NJ	July 27 - August 2
Festivent & Quebec City	Levis, QC	July 30 - August 3
Pittsfield	Pittsfield, NH	August 1 - 3
Libro London Balloon Festival	London, ON	August 1 - 3
International Balloon Festival (25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	St Jean-sur-Richilieu	August 9 - 17
Crown of Maine	Presque Isle, MA	August 21 - 24
Festival Mongolfiers de Gatineau	Gatineau, QC	August 29 - Sept. 1
Atlantic Balloon Fiesta	Sussex, NB	September 5 - 7
Adirondack Balloon Festival	Glenns Falls, NY	September 19 - 22
Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta	Albuquerque, NM	October 3 - 12
Holiday Balloon Fest	Battle Creek, MI	December 5 - 7

