

The Crownlines

THE EDITOR SPEAKS.....

More or Les

And, now the end is near.... Well, at least the end of me as *Crownlines* editor. It's time to turn over the computer to someone else. Although it was a bit frustrating at times, I did enjoy my time as editor and certainly learned a lot. Thanks to all my contributors over the last two (only two? thought it was more) years. I certainly appreciated the generally positive response I received whenever I asked members to submit an article. A special thank you to my husband David for his support, for letting me control the computer as much as I did, for filling in during my absence, and for driving around the city to hand-deliver newsletters in an attempt to save money on postage.

With the AGM fast approaching, it is time to look to the membership to take an active role in the NCBC. While any club is based on its membership, the membership gains its direction from the executive it elects. Therefore, for a club to be its best, it needs a strong executive, willing to meet to discuss club issues, willing to put some time and effort into the functioning of the club, and willing to help each other. It's not a hard job, but it does require a small commitment of time for meetings and general duties. Also, it is very important that the executive be willing to share responsibilities so the same members are not doing all the work. The old adage "many hands make light work" is very true and helps prevent volunteer burn-out, a common ailment in many clubs and non-profit organizations. I hope there are NCBC members out there who are willing to accept the challenge for their own enjoyment and the betterment of the club.

Leslie Manion

Wishing you gentle breezes,

soft landings, easy chases,



friendship, prosperity,

health, happiness,

and chocolate in 1998

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Leslie's (e) Mail Bag

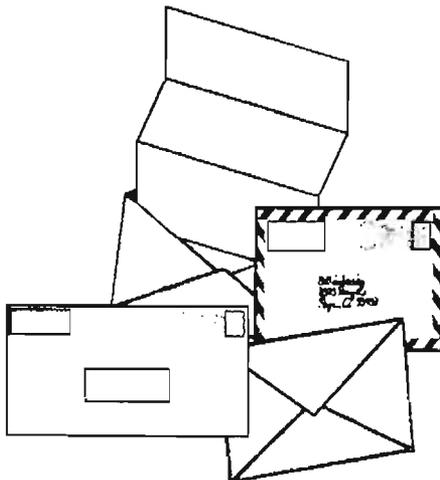
October 15

I am writing you from Zweibruecken, Germany. I came over to Canada, as Deb (Wright) had written in your newsletter and was introduced to hot air ballooning. I have been hooked ever since. I have only great feelings toward all of you that made it possible for me to be able to attend the winter festival in Ottawa last February.

Thanks to Les (Welsh) for putting up with me, Greg for turning up the heat in the van so I would not freeze, and most of all to Deb. She has been a great friend to my sister Diane and to the Buck family for many years. As my father would have said, "Deb, my other daughter in Canada."

I would love to keep in touch somehow. I do not have my own e-mail, so next time I will need to write a letter. If there is anything I can do at this end of the world for the club, please let me know. There is a large balloon launch coming up in January in the Schweiz. Dates - I do not know off the top of my head, but I will find out. If anyone would like to fly over, I can look into making plans, etc. etc. for them. I sign off now and thank you again.

Kathy Buck



November 6

How are things way back there in Canada? Things are going as well as can be expected, here in the centre of the universe. The winters are just hell. It takes me about 20 minutes to burn now, when I first arrived it took 30 seconds.

The flying is going well but can be very tricky at times - you get big winds changes, and always at the wrong time. Luxor is an interesting place to live... not! Interesting but boring as hell when you're alone. There is nothing to do here if you live here. No newspapers worth reading; TV sucks. I have no idea what is happening in the real world. I've been adopted by a family in the Valley of the Nobles that helps a lot with the isolation. I am trying to find someone to teach me to play the piano, but no luck yet. Good thing the weather is nice, too bad you can't go in the water. Keep in touch.

Captain Dave

Ralph Rehm Memorial Fund

A special memorial fund has been established in honour of pilot Ralph Rehm who died of a massive heart attack during the Plano Balloon Festival last fall. Donations to the fund will be used to place a park bench at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano.

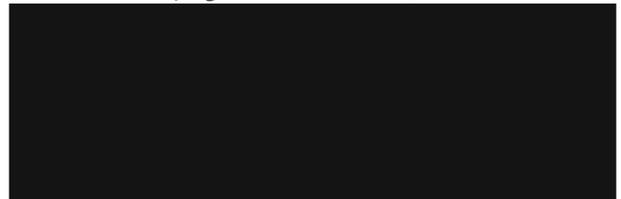
Donations can be sent to:
Bank One Texas
P.O. Box 655415
Dallas, Texas, 75265-5415
Attn: Tammy Suarez, TX1-2439

Cheques should be made out to Ralph A. Rehm Memorial and include Account # 1822648638

Classifieds

The Crownlines accepts classified ads at the following rates -

Full Page	\$25.
Half page	\$15.



The World Championships

Here are the results for the top 10 placements at the 1997 World Championships followed by where our Canadian competitors placed.

1.	David Bareford	UK	18059
2.	Janne Balkedal	Sweden	16993
3.	Joe Heartsill	USA	16739
4.	Bill Arras	USA	16570
5.	Uwe Schneider	Germany	16480
6.	Thomas Fink	Germany	16371
7.	Harold Cliver	USA	16368
8.	Pat Cannon	USA	16267
9.	Brian Beasley	USA	16231
10.	Jouni Routsalainen	Finland	16007

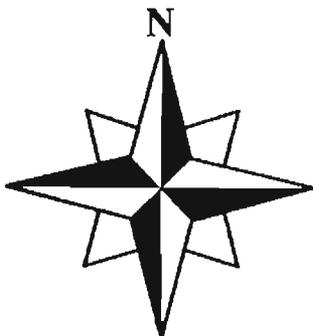
52. Dave Roberts
88. Mary Anne Stevens
94. Stan Wereschuk
96. Jason Adams

Skills Upgrade

Anyone interested in upgrading his or her ballooning skills over the winter?

Bill Whelan is looking at organizing two courses if there's enough interest. There will be a propane course that will lead to obtaining a propane license and a map-reading seminar.

He is looking at some dates in February and/or March, and costs will be determined by numbers. If you are interested, call Bill at 762-7413.



Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 1997 Annual General Meeting of the National Capital Balloon Club will be held on Thursday, February 12 at 7pm at the Travelodge (Innes at the Queensway). All members are encouraged to attend.

Following is a list of the Board positions and status:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Status</u>	<u>Future</u>
President	Stephanie Glover	Open
Vice-Pres.	Liz Dowd	Open
Secretary	King Glover	Open
Treasurer	King Glover	Open

Directors		
Frank Bellantoni	Frank Bellantoni	
Carlos Craston	Carlos Craston	
Pete Labelle	Open	
Lorraine LaFrance	Lorraine LaFrance	
Leslie Manion	Open	
Dave Ryan (resigned)	Open	
Les Welsh	Open	

If you would like to run for a position or would like to nominate someone, please call Les Welsh (234-5021) or Leslie Manion (682-6546). If you would like to add items to the agenda, please call Stephanie Glover (748-0222).

Submissions

The Crownlines welcomes articles, letters, illustrations, or photographs that would be of interest to balloonists. Please submit a diskette in either WordPerfect 5.1 or Word in text format. Include your name and phone number and label your diskette so it can be returned. Articles may be edited for length or style.

To get an article in *The Crownlines* -

Mail it to the club address:
National Capital Balloon Club
P.O. Box 78081
Meriline RPO
Nepean, ON K2E 1B1

Social (notes)

The annual end-of-season Fly Day and party was originally scheduled to be an Oktoberfest/Hallowe'en event, but turned into a Novemberfest.

After meeting at the Navan Arena and the usual hurrying up and waiting for the winds to die down, a convoy of six balloons set off for the church at Sarsfield. It was a lovely, cool, crisp afternoon flight. Everyone returned to Prez Stephanie's for beer, munchies, sausages, stew, chili, sweets, and a bonfire. There was a great turnout, almost 50 people, and a good time was had by all

Thanks to everyone who brought goodies and contributed to the financial pot. Special thanks to Debbie Wright and Leslie Manion for helping with the buying, cooking, and cleaning and, of course, to Stephanie, Josh, Zach, and Ethan for their hospitality.

Pilot Statistics

If you want to know what the aviation section of Transport Canada is up to these days, check out their comprehensive web site. There are current statistics on pilots and balloons as well as all the other types of licensees and aircraft in Canada - they even break down the numbers by province.

And, how many pilots are there? As of July, there were 277 pilots of which 249 are men and 28 are women. (There are six women in Ottawa alone, and two of them are instructors. Wow! Go girls!)

Pilot age breakdown -

under 30 = 20	30 - 34 = 33
35 - 39 = 53	40 - 44 = 69
45 - 49 = 39	50 - 54 = 34
55 - 59 = 14	60 - 64 = 19
over 65 = 6	(I know - it doesn't add up)

There are 447 balloons registered so that means each pilot has 1.6 balloons.

You can find pilots' licenses at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/aviation/general/personel/stats.htm> and aircraft registered are at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/aviation/general/ccarcs/pubs/stats.htm>

CBA Journal - October 1997

Sunrise, sunset

...swiftly go the years...

There's a handy site on the Web for anyone who wants to know the times of sunrise and sunset - on any day, month, or year anywhere in the world, zulu or local time. It even computes daylight savings time.

Enter your desired location by airport code, city name or latitude/longitude references. Enter the date you want and the time zone. You can specify if you want times for a single day, or a table showing a one to twelve-month range.

Your table can show sunrise, sunset, civil twilight for aviators, astronomical/nautical dawn and dusk, and length of day. Trivia types can also check out some of the definitions.

<http://empsolv.com/los/sunset.html>

CBA Journal - October 1997

World Wide Web Balloon Pages

If you have access to the Internet, you may wish to check out the following site which offers a comprehensive list of ballooning sites around the world. The list is prepared by Joop de Wilde of the Netherlands and is updated once a month. Have fun!

<http://www.euronet.nl/users/jdwilde>

Liz Dowd

Fundraising Follow-Up

Last *Crowlines*, we asked for some new and interesting fundraising ideas. We got one all the way from Germany.

No doubt you remember your last *Crowlines* which featured a colourful German stamp of hot air balloons on the front page. The stamp was courtesy of our German member, Kathy Buck. She went out and bought a bunch of them which she has given to the Club as a fundraiser. We need more members like her. Thanks, Kathy!

Mode C Transponders

Pilots have all received a letter from ATAC (Air Transport Association of Canada) on Mode C Transponders for balloons.

Mary Anne Stevens, NCBC member and president of the CBA (Canadian Balloon Association), has drafted a response letter outlining balloonists' concerns. The letter is published in the December edition of *The Journal*.

Fly Days Wrap-Up

Fly Days concluded in October with two special Fly Days in Cornwall and Navan. While the Cornwall event featured some unique campaigning for municipal election by our host, Chris Savard, a student pilot flying with pilot-in-command Stephanie Glover, I was the only other NCBC member who appeared. Chris flew with a huge drop-banner from his balloon over Cornwall on the beautiful Saturday evening, much to the delight of Cornwallians watching below. It must have worked because he was re-elected!

The Navan event was much better attended - it was closer and was followed by an enjoyable party. The second draw by computer determined the following ranking of winners of the gratis Club flight (again with Les Welsh in *Sanity*):

Bourbonnais, Frank; Manion, Leslie; Fournier, Daniel; Neitzert, Frank; Manion, Leslie; Wright, Debbie; Johns, David; Johns, David; Gosselin, Pierre; Dowd, Liz; Leclair, Lola; Brisebois, Paul; Bekooy, Jan; Moreau, Gary; Lussier, Joseph/ Madeleine; Glover, King; Moreau, Jocelyne.

Going down the list to find a non-pilot NCBC member who was present was easy this time. Leslie Manion was the winner for the second time in a row! (You may note that Leslie's and David's names appear twice. This was because they had participated in a previous Fly Day and thus each got an extra entry in the draw).

Given our late start on the draw idea, I can't conclude whether or not it was a worthwhile way to encourage non-pilot NCBC member participation. However, I think the procedure is at least a partial answer to the "anonymous" letter to the editor in the Fall 1997 Crownlines who was concerned over his/her ability to participate. Does anyone have an interest in pursuing the procedure in 1998? (The full procedure was described in the August *Crownlines*.)

Although we don't have any count of the number of members phoning the hot line (247-6111) about Fly Days, my own impression was that using it for Fly Days was a successful way to communicate, especially for morning Fly Days. It certainly reduced the number of telephone calls I had to make, while enabling any member to find out what was planned. I committed one significant error for the Alternate Fly Day on September 28. I forecasted significant fog that morning when little was present. Unfortunately, I canceled the Fly Day as a result. Several people went and flew anyway; good for them!

Reimbursement for pilots for propane (up to \$25 per flight) is limited to the September 14, October 11, and October 25 dates since these were the only official Fly Days subsequent to the announcement of the Fly Day procedures in the August *Crownlines*. You can claim reimbursement even if you didn't offer to fly the drawn member on those dates, but in 1998 we'll try to be more pointed about asking participating pilots to fly a winning member.

Les Welsh
Fly Day Director

Switzerland in '98

For Sale - I have two Swiss Air tickets, good for all of 1998. They were won at the '97 Gatineau Balloon Festival, but I lost my traveling companion so they don't mean anything to me. Looking for best offer. If interested call me at

Dave Ryan

Junior Balloonist Program

Do you have family members age 7-17 who crew for mom, dad, or anyone else? Do you have access to the Internet? If so, you can visit the following Internet site - <http://www.stimo.com/skyangel> - that will give you access to the Junior Balloonist Program.

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like additional information, the snail address is:

Tina Reeves
BFA Jr. Balloonist Program
10472 Ashby Place Lane
St. Ann, MO 63074 USA

Andrew Eades, son of NCBC member Ron Eades and his wife Dixie, recently placed third in a Junior Balloonist essay contest. His essay follows.

Hats off to Andrew from the NCBC!

Liz Dowd

THIRD PLACE JB ESSAY CONTEST 1997 My Adventure

On the day of June 20, 1997, I set off on a flight with balloonist Gilles Tremblay. It was during the Brockville Rodeo, and it was a lovely evening. Gilles and I were the third last to take off that evening. As we started our flight, we flew over a beautiful forest. As we came to the end of the forest, we watched below and saw people waving and saying hello. When we were finished waving and saying hello, we were then flying over the 401 highway. Everyone was beeping their horns as we passed. After being up for a good hour and a half, we started to look for a good spot to land. It felt as though it was going to rain and the wind picked a bit as we knocked into some trees to slow down. A couple of minutes later, we spotted a gravel pit and decided to land there. As we started to contact the chase crew to let them know that we were going to land so to come and pick us up, but we got no response. But we came down anyway. As we started to descend, we bumped into great big mounds of gravel to slow down. As we landed, we felt the rain starting to fall, and we still could not locate our crew so Gilles and I both knew we were in trouble. As we watched and waited anxiously, we finally saw Gilles' car coming. We got the envelope packed up as fast as we could. The lesson I learned was to always carry an extra walkie-talkie battery!

Andrew Eades
Age 11

A Winterlude Fable

Once upon a time, in the land of Ottawa, there was a big winter party that everyone wanted to be part of. The NCC, the people in charge of the party, invited the little balloon club, the NCBC, to be part of the party because they thought balloons added colour to the Capital and they liked to see balloons over the city. "Give us money," they said, "and you too can be part of the party." The NCBC was worried because they needed lots of money to be able to take part properly, so the NCC offered the NCBC a list of names of companies that might like to give money to a small balloon club that wanted to be part of a big winter party.

The NCBC looked at the list and started calling companies and people to ask for money. After lots of rejections and much frustration, the NCBC found a nice company, The Co-operators, who would happily give them \$5000. to be part of the party. WOW! They had never had that much money before. The NCBC was very happy!

They called the NCC and said, "We can be part of the party! We have a sponsor!" The NCC was very happy too until they found out who the sponsor was. "Oh, the Co-operators Insurance! You can't have them. The major party sponsor is the Royal Bank of Canada who also sell insurance, and they won't like that."

"But, but... you said... they were on the list... why? We're just a little non-profit balloon club. And, the Royal Bank is the biggest financial institution in the country...they are worried about us and a small company that sells insurance? What's wrong with this picture?" The NCBC wrote letters to the NCC and the Royal Bank, but all anyone said was "tough!"

So, in the end, the NCBC went to Co-operators and told them they couldn't be their major sponsor. The Co-operators were very nice and said we'll give you some money anyway so we can all be part of that stupid party run by those stupid and annoying people.

And the moral of the story is buy things from the nice little company called *the co-operators* and do your best to boycott the mean, big business called the Royal Bank who made a measly profit of only several million dollars last year and just doesn't know how to share. The End

Leslie Manion

Winterlude Balloon Fiesta

With our Winterlude Fiesta scheduled for February 13-15, spots are filling up quickly, so local pilots are encouraged to get registrations in soon.

Since we do have a sponsor, *the co-operators*, we are an **official** event. Although details are still being worked out, here is a tentative schedule:

Thursday, Feb. 12	4pm 7pm	Registration Annual General Meeting Welcome Party
Friday, Feb. 13	8am 2pm 7pm 8pm	Flight Flight Kids' Night - Hotel Western Night - Zuma's Rodeo
Saturday, Feb. 14	8am 2pm 7pm 8pm	Flight Flight Kids' Night, the Sequel Valentine's Party - Hoo Doo McFiggins
Sunday, Feb. 15	8am Noon 2pm	Flight Wrap-Up Brunch - Hoo Doo McFiggins Flight (optional)

Daily breakfasts will be held at Louis' Restaurant on Cyrville (behind Home Depot).

We're anticipating a fun event and hope all the membership will be involved. We will be needing volunteers to help with a variety of things such as registration, crewing, etc. Please call Stephanie

Attention: STS Radio Owners

Are you looking for STS Replacement Batteries for your STS Aircraft Radio and don't know where to find them? Gilles Tremblay has found a company in the US that carries them and is willing to give a discount for a consolidated order to Canada. Anyone interested in participating in the spring purchase should contact Gilles at (819) 281-0752 by February 1.

Remembering Ralph Rehm

During the Canadians at St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, either in 1989 or 1990, I was assigned as an observer to Ralph Rehm's balloon. I must admit that my first impression of him was not so hot. He had a local guide with him to help with navigation, and he spoke rather harshly to the man. But then he also had the van loaded with kids who did not seem to be impressed at all with his loud voice.

As I remember, the task was to launch from a place of the pilots' choice and to throw the marker at a designated target. Ralph asked me to fly with him, and I still remember the strenuous concentration on his face when he let go of his marker - much too early. Even I, the novice, could see that. But now that the job was done, there was the Ralph we all liked so much. He asked me if I minded coming along to the propane re-fill. And there it was that the party started. His wife Pebbles, who had flown her own balloon, also showed up. Out came the champagne. And then Ralph retrieved from his van a huge Japanese sword which he used, with an enormous swing, to decapitate the bottle. I was amazed, but I was the only one. Obviously everybody else thought that was the way to go. Later I spoke with the local guide who was also the father of the kids in the van. He and Ralph had known each other for quite some time.

Waiting for our turn at the fuel supply, Ralph gave me a pin of his balloon. And then Pebbles gave me a pin showing her and his balloon over the State of Texas. I also found out why she was called Pebbles: her family name was Stone, but when she was small, she was very small.

Take care, Pebbles. There is one thought that may help you: Ralph went "with his boots on". It was the only way he wanted to go.

Jan Becooy



A Red Head's Life in Egypt

This past October I was asked if I would like to go to Luxor, Egypt; to do some balloon flying. Since it was an opportunity that might never come my way again, I said yes. The airfare was paid for if I stayed three months, there was free room and board, and all I had to do was fly once a day while playing ambassador to the masses. Plus the US cash was nice.

After spending four days in Cairo (a nice place to visit on a day trip) and surviving their six-hour medical (there's another story!), it was on to Luxor.

The flying was pretty cool, but I was actually bored after the first week. It wasn't until it became a big game of doing what the masses wanted that it became fun. The area I flew in was about five kilometers long, and two kilometers wide. You could fly farther, but outside that space there was just sugar cane or desert. It was like flying in the small valleys of Europe: easy as hell, then all of a sudden you get a big wind change, and if you're in the wrong spot (well, that's another story)

Within the area we flew, there was the Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Nobles, Valley of the Queens, a workers' village, a couple of temples, including the world-famous Hatshepsut Temple.

The game was to go as low as you could and get into the sites without paying for a ticket, put the basket between the pillars, and touch the writing on the wall, so to speak. All of this while not ticking off the secret police. It was a blast! I was setting up for one particular photo that could only be done close to home-time. Unfortunately home-time came without notice, a month early when the operation was shut down due to the massacre.

My routine: I was up at 4am, at the boat by 5 and cruising across the Nile by 5:20. We were in the air by 6, down before 7:30, cruising back down the Nile by 8:30 at the latest, and en route to the Sheraton for breakfast. Between 9 - 9:30, I was back on the Nile saying good bye to new friends and working on my tan. Isn't life a bitch? Didn't miss a day of flying except for that one time I was in the wrong spot when there was a big wind change, flew over the mountains, and slid down a cliff face because I was out of fuel; but that's another story (and what a story it is!)

Egypt is a place one has to visit in one's lifetime. I plan on going back some day back to see some very close friends and to introduce a close friend to them.

Dave Ryan

New Summer Festival

Burlington, Ontario, will be holding its first balloon festival July 17-19 at the Burlington Airpark. The **SkyHigh Balloon Festival** is sandwiched, in terms of both time and geography, between the Battle Creek and New Jersey festivals. Organizers are conservatively estimating an attendance of 50,000 for the first year. Morning and evening flights are scheduled as well as two night glows, a dawn patrol, and \$25,000 in prizes.

If you would like more information about the festival, contact Tara George, Ballooning Coordinator or Dave Roberts, Director of Ballooning. SkyHigh's fax number is (519) 822-1092.

Landowner Appreciation Program

Only four pilots took part in the 1997 NCBC Landowner Appreciation Program in which pilots were asked to take time to get the name and address of the landowner after a flight. Although 15 forms were submitted, only 13 letters were sent (two forms did not have addresses). Each landowner received a thank-you letter, and all names were entered in a draw. Landowner Jeff Dawson, of Richmond, received a \$25. gift certificate from Canadian Tire.

Thanks to the pilots and their crews who took the time to take part in the program. Possibly their efforts will help all pilots when it comes to future landowner relations.

Leslie Marion

The End is Here!!!

(figuratively and literally)

If you have not renewed your membership for the 1998 season, this will be your last *Crownlines*. Eeeek! What a terrible prospect! Renew your membership today!

*500th Anniversary of the Discovery of
North America Hot Air Balloon
Festival
(version français)*

L'expédition pour Gander débute donc très tôt le 25 juillet pour Gilles Tremblay, Janet Power, Nathalie Tremblay et Myriam Boudreault. Nous avons voyagé en convoi avec la bande de loups constituée de Bill Whelan, Benoît Asselin et Heidi Gabriel et nous nous sommes rendus à Sussex, N.B., en arrêtant de multiples fois pour des McFlumies et des arrêts au puits. Le pilote George Paulin nous a accueilli à Sussex et a organisé un vol pour le lendemain matin de bonne heure. Il est comme un trafiquant de drogue; il sait bien qu'une envolée à Sussex cause une puissante accoutumance et qu'on en veut toujours plus. Donc le lendemain matin, quatre ballons ont décollé dans des cieux calmes et à peine voiles. La présence du pilote Doug Shippee, de Saint John, N.B., a contribué à rendre ce vol encore plus mémorable. Maintenant, nous sommes certains que Sussex est le paradis de la montgolfière et nous y retournerons sans aucun doute. La bande de loups est demeurée à Sussex quelques jours tandis que nous avons poursuivi notre route jusqu'à Halifax pour une visite rapide dans la famille de Janet. Dimanche soir, nous avons gonflé la montgolfière sur un terrain de soccer en l'honneur de l'anniversaire d'un des frères de Janet. Cet événement a attiré une foule nombreuse car la présence de montgolfières est rare à Halifax. Je revois encore cet écossais tout à fait impressionné de voir que l'on avait fait tout ce chemin avec la montgolfière pour un anniversaire!

Si jamais quelqu'un vous dit que ça prend 5 ou 6 heures pour se rendre à Port-aux-Basques, ils vous mentent! Ça prend au moins 7 heures pour se rendre mais le paysage en vaut la chandelle. Malheureusement (ou heureusement?) les seuls originaux que nous avons vus à Terre-Neuve étaient ceux que l'on retrouve sur la signalisation routière. Nous avons été accueillis chaleureusement à Gander par des gens heureux et excités. Une cérémonie de bienvenue que nous n'oublierons jamais (on a tous été initiés au Screech), a été donnée en notre honneur le mercredi soir. Pour ceux qui ne sont jamais allés à Terre-Neuve, le Screech est un rhum brun très fort à 40% d'alcool qui est embouteillé dans la province. La cérémonie se déroule ainsi: plein de

drôles d'histoires, dégustation de steak 'newfie' (bologne) et de pain blanc durci, embrassade d'un vieux morceau de morue salée puant et un cul-sec de Screech. Tout cela se termine par l'inoubliable question: 'Are you a Newfie?' La réponse est 'Deed I Is me olde cocke, long may your big Jib draw.' Ce qui veut dire: Bien sûr que je suis Newfie mon vieil ami et j'espère que tout ira très bien pour toi. La pénalité pour avoir donné une mauvaise réponse était un autre cul-sec de Screech et on recommençait. Vous avez lu la réponse une fois, fermez les yeux et essayez de la redire - vous allez voir comme c'est facile!

Gander ne nous a pas offert des conditions propices au vol. Selon Nick, les vents forts et la pluie étaient causés par un système dépressionnaire provenant de l'île de Baffin. La mauvaise température nous a quand même permis de faire un petit peu d'exploration. Il semble que tous les pilotes et leurs équipes de poursuite ont fait de même et se sont rendus à Twillingate pour voir la côte et un iceberg. Dès que l'occasion s'y prêtait, les pilotes gonflaient leur montgolfière ou tout au moins sortaient l'équipement au grand plaisir des passants. Même le Matthew, la réplique du bateau de John Cabot, a été accueilli à Botwood par une montgolfière. Le pilote de la montgolfière originaire de Easton en Pennsylvanie, Don Henk, a eu le grand honneur d'être le premier à prendre son envol à Gander. Il a survolé l'aéroport d'une extrémité à l'autre le jeudi soir. Dimanche soir, environ 20 des 30 montgolfières ont pu s'envoler (vol qui a duré environ 3 minutes). Certains ont atterri sur une piste d'envol, d'autres dans le fossé. Ce soir là, la foule était totalement survoltée. Le festival se termina le lundi midi et on nous a offert un repas sans égal avec une truite des plus délicieuses.

Ce fut une expérience vraiment inoubliable. Notre visite à Gander a été fantastique grâce au directeur de vol du festival, Gary Lockyer, à l'organisateur, Derm Flynn et à tous les autres. Nous croyons maintenant que les terre-neuviens sont les gens les plus gentils du monde. Pour ceux d'entre nous qui ont été initiés au Screech, si on nous demande 'Are you a Newfie?' Nous serons fiers de répondre 'DEED I IS!'

*Gilles Tremblay
Janet Power*