

Inside this Issue

- 1 National Championships
- 2 Fly Day Report 1
The Tether Spot
- 3 Fly Day Report 2
Gatineau News
- 4 A Cell Phone Story
Upcoming Events
- 5 More Fly Days Notes
- 6 A Dream Fulfilled
In English & French
- 7 Photos from Annonay
- 8 Fly Day & Festival
Schedule
- 9 Membership List,
continued on Page 10

National Capital Balloon Club
P.O. Box 78081
Meriline RPO
Nepean, ON K2E 1B1

The Crownlines

The Canadian National Championships Saga

By Leslie Manion

In late June, club member Allan McDonald approached the NCBC board suggesting the club host the Canadian National Hot Air Balloon Championships in Kemptville on September 22-26. No other Canadian city had come forward for the Canadians, and Allan felt this would be an excellent opportunity for both the NCBC and the area. While it seemed like a good idea, the big obstacles, as with many good ideas, were the cost and the short lead time. The board determined that if the money could be obtained, then all the other obstacles could be overcome, and we agreed to proceed cautiously. The board was recruited as the committee under Allan who offered to take on the role of chair as well as that of chief fund-raiser and Kemptville liaison. The town itself appeared keen, and there was even a front-page news story in their local newspaper about the event. Meanwhile, the committee members were doing research, writing letters, making contacts, looking into freebies, etc. Although July 15 was set as D-(decision) Day, that date was extended, especially since Kemptville College could not provide info on dorm room availability until August 1

Part of the delay in getting this edition of the *Crownlines* out has been the Championships as we were hoping to be able to provide the membership with a definitive yes or no. Now we can do that, and the answer is: NO. Although we were able to raise 75% of the projected budget, with under seven weeks to go, it was agreed that we were too short of both time and money.

Thanks to Allan McDonald for his drive and hard work in getting the idea as far along as he did. Also thanks to the committee - Bill Whelan, Dan & Laura Kelly, Debbie Wright, Stephanie Glover, Sandra McDonald, David Lopushinsky, Sandra Shannon, Leslie Manion, and Diane Casault.



There is talk of doing something in 2000 - perhaps a bid for the Nationals or even a festival. With months (instead of weeks to prepare), we have a much greater chance of success and an opportunity to have more member involvement. June or September is being proposed as suitable times. Meanwhile, to keep Kemptville's interest, we will have a Fly Day in September.

So, no Championships for 1999 but something to look forward to in 2000. We hope all club members will get involved and help make whatever event we have a major success.

Fly Day #1

Our first club fly day was held on the evening of May 2, at Carleton University. Continuing on from a perfect weekend, many pilots had already been out sampling the winds and hopping through fields, updating their currency!

Many thanks to the crew and pilots who came early to help clean up the launch site. I will spare you any details of the cleanup and let you glean those from the participants, should they want to divulge the experience. We gathered up much refuse, and the site definitely looked MUCH BETTER once we were done. From a community relations perspective, we have done our sport a service. Way to go everyone!

Stephanie arrived at the site, having cancelled her passenger flight, due to, <get this!!!>, a severe weather warning of dust devils! Les laughed heartily at the concern of Flight Services for dust devils and gave us a wonderful meteorological lesson in this respect. We continued to clean, resolving to call back later.

Jean Boileau arrived and began to set up. His call to flight services had indicated that the warning had been downgraded, so I called to get another update. Flight Services was less concerned now with the dust devils, so we launched pie-balls and watched their direction.

Now anyone who has flown with me knows my "love" of flying over the city. So, after a look at the pi-balls, I decided to go to Manotick and give it a try from there.

I launched from Manotick Long Island Locks, and flew a beautiful flight to Richmond. The land was very dry, and a lot of the fields were already plowed and planted.

As luck would have it, the balloon followed the tree line between two fields, the field on the left was not

planted, and the field on the right was planted. Guess which direction the balloon went – to the right, of course!

Patience paid off, however, and near Richmond, we found a pasture field with access. The landing was quick, but otherwise uneventful. My crew, Carolyn Spence, was right there to pick us up! However, we had lost the second chase vehicle along the way. And, since they were supposed to give Carolyn a ride home, we, in turn, started to search for them. Our search was not long: we found them at the gas station taking refreshments and hoping we would find them.

So, with crew reunited and tanks refueled, that was the end of the first Club Fly Day. Now, I think the others went to Baxters, but you'll have to talk to them to find out about the alternative activities!

Sandra Shannon

Where Are All the Fields Going?

Is it just me, or are we beginning to notice that the fields we have been landing in, are quickly disappearing? I hear myself saying, "Do you remember when we landed there before all those houses were built?" More and more our city is growing and the lands are being quickly developed. Landing spots are also becoming more of an effort to find, and clearing the city in light and variable winds is becoming a challenge. I have just read an article about the development of Lebreton Flats. Soon launching in this wonderful city of ours will be a challenge as well.

This is a reminder to keep our landowners happy and respect their wishes and their lands. Remember - whenever you fly, you are a diplomat of ballooning, and it takes a committed group like the NCBC to keep our landowners wanting us back.

Stephanie Glover

That's Gotta Hurt...

On Thursday, July 22, Chris Savard of Cornwall took a couple for a flight. The plan, known to Chris, was for the male passenger to propose. He was nervous, but at an appropriate moment, got to one knee and popped the question. The woman said, "yes, of course," at which point he produced a \$3000 engagement ring. Wow! How extravagant! How romantic! How foolish?!

Something happened as he was putting the ring on her finger that resulted in the ring nose diving OUT of the basket 325 feet into a CORN FIELD. Yikes! Last we heard, a metal detector was being rented for a search. Good luck! Hope this isn't a marriage omen!

The Tether Spot

Congratulations to Skyview's John Davidson and Cyndie Benson who tied the matrimonial knot on June 26.

Also congrats to Chris Savard and Shauna who got married on April 30. New baby daughter Cassidy was on hand for the nuptials.

Meanwhile Gary Moreau and Laurie Manion have become engaged. Though no date has been set, they are looking at a millennium wedding.

And, the Cornwall Quinlans - Todd and Stephanie - got a new crew member with the birth of son Graysen, born on June 1.

And Lorraine and Guy Lafrance are expecting their second child in March.

Fly Day #2

Our second fly day – a May 30 morning flight from Pineview Golf Course – had all of us struggling to get back into the morning routine. Someone asked, “Who picked this morning flight anyway?” The answer was Diane and I - during Winterlude, when we were both in withdrawal from lack of flying. Amazing how quickly one forgets about those early morning flights! Lesson learned – drink more coffee!

Bill, King and Sandra brought their balloons. Leslie, Debbie, Alexis, with a new recruit (and now club member) Wendy came along to crew.

Bill brought donuts for everyone. Of course, the kids were much pleased with this! Christopher absconded with the donut box into my truck, and throughout the flight and retrieval, munched on those sugary treats.

With winds on the surface heading northeast and with a nice hook to the east in the upper winds, we decided to launch from where we were. What a sight! Three colorful balloons inflating on a beautiful morning! We then remembered: THIS is what we wake up for!

Once in the air, we could see that three other balloons had launched in the city. As planned, we flew low over the gorge, then climbed up for the hook, which took us out over the country.

We all had good flights and met back at Louis’ for breakfast. Christopher was not hungry (too many donuts???), but the rest of us had our usual – COFFEE and breakfast.

Diane Casault was the winner of the “Dedication Award.” Even though she was supposed to be at the Ottawa Air Show for 8:30, she came to the launch to help out, and then followed Bill’s truck to help Alexis with the chase. Bill

and Jim had a long flight to Rockland, and Diane stayed to help Alexis find them. They landed in a beautiful, but secluded, field that was not easy to see from the road. Last we heard, Diane was racing back to the Ottawa airport, from Rockland at 8:25. If she made it to the airshow on time, she was really flying! Many thanks to Diane for her dedication to helping our balloons and crew!

Welcome to our newest club member – Wendy. And, thanks to everyone for a great fly day.

Sandra Shannon

Balloons & Dragons

The 1999 Singapore Slings Dragon Boat team could also be called the NCBC team as it contained a large number of balloonists. Found in the 22-person boat was David Lopushinsky steering; Leslie Manion yelling; and paddling their little hearts out were Stephanie Glover, Todd Boucher, Wendy Datzell, and Debbie Wright in Ignition; with Alexis Hum and Estelle Sullivan in Turbo. The team came an honourable 46 (of 130).

Everyone was pleased to see fellow NCBCers Gary Moreau and Laurie Manion cheering them on at the finish line in their first race.

Debbie Wright

Help! Crew Needed!!

The Gatineau Balloon Festival (September 3-6) is looking for crew volunteers. If you want a good view of the balloons and have a lot of fun at the same time, then volunteer for the Festival. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce your family and friends to the joys of ballooning.



Fly Days Take Off in the Fall.

We have a busy fall schedule filled with charity and fun events, and we hope our pilots and crew will come out in support.

Since we have a Fly Day already scheduled for September 18, we are going to make a fourth attempt at an afternoon CHEO tether. And, should we get weathered out - again - we will simply retire for a social.

To keep balloon interest up in Kemptville, September 25 will find us holding a demonstration Fly Day there. The Forest Fair will be ending at 3pm, and the club will go out to have a good-will fly from the park.

October 2 will see the club tethering at the second annual Great Pumpkin Caper on the RCMP grounds. This is a lovely fall event and the free pumpkin(s) make it all worthwhile.

An October 16 Fly Day is currently scheduled for Manotick Long Island. Check the Hotline to verify the location and time.

And, finally, the flying season will wrap up with the annual Fly Day/Oktobertfest/ and this year Halloween Party on Saturday, October 30 at the home of President Stephanie in Navan.

So, mark your calendars now, and we’ll see you on the launch fields in September!

Darn Cell Phones

You know how rookie pilots always seem to have a story about every flight? Well this particular rookie is no exception.

The rookie pilot has a windy launch with his token one crew person. (It is also funny how rookies think that one crew person is enough!) Anyway, the rookie launches, and after he is about 100 feet up and away, he radios his token crew member and says, "Can you call my cell phone please; I can't find it. It was on the back of my belt and now it's gone." The wonderful, keen crew person calls the cell as requested only to find that the cell phone is not on. She radios back to the rookie and says, "Sorry, it isn't on." The rookie replies, "+*#@& - I think it must be in the canal," and the flight continues.

After the flight, the rookie and single crew person return to Carleton University and begin searching the bush for the phone. No luck. The phone is nowhere to be found, and now it is dark.

The rookie pilot returns the next morning in the early hours of the morning and still no cell phone. The rookie cancels his service with a Cantel rep who says, "I've never heard that one before," and provides a new phone for \$400. Oh dear! another ballooning expense.

A week later the balloon is being flown by another pilot. As she inflates she finds her parachute is entangled. "What the heck did the rookie pilot and token crew member do on their last flight?" she wonders. As she looks further at the parachute lines, she finds something caught in the lines. "What's this?" she asks. "Why, it's a cell phone that flew a whole flight inside the

balloon in the heat, AND it still works!"

She calls the rookie pilot who assumes that she is kidding, but she is not. Now THAT is a story for Cantel and Motorola! Happy flying, Bro!

Stephanie Glover

Balloons Lead Off!!

Cadence Design Systems (Canada) Inc. is sponsoring the production of 1000 copies of the promotional video Ottawa and the Outaouais: Canada's Capital Region. This video begins with balloons from the Region in its opening and runs eight minutes. It is available in English and French.

Advertising Rates For The Crownlines

The Crownlines accepts advertisements at the following rates for fully prepared advertising copy:

Full Page	\$25
Half Page	\$15
Quarter Page	\$10
Business Card	\$ 5



Or

Send a hard copy of your ad with full payment to:

National Capital Balloon Club
P.O. Box 78081
Merilene RPO
Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B1

Upcoming Events

Fly Day

Sunday, Aug 2 – 6:00 am
Carleton University

Fly Day +

Saturday, Aug 21 – 2:00 pm
Winchester

Fly Day

Saturday, Sep 18 – 3:00 pm
CHEO Tether

Fly Day

Saturday, Sep 25 – 3:00 pm
Kemptville

Fly Day

Saturday, Oct 2 – TBA
RCMP grounds – St. Laurent Blvd.

Fly Day

Saturday, Oct 16 – 4:00 pm
Manotick Long Island

Fly Day +

Saturday, Oct 30 – 4:00 pm
Navan

Festivals

July 29 – Aug 2
London, ON

Aug 7 – Aug 15
St-Jean-sur Richelieu, QC

Sep 3 – Sep 6
Gatineau Balloon Festival
Gatineau, QC

Sep 10 – Sep 13
Sussex, NB

Oct 1 – Oct 10
Albuquerque, NM

Oct 22 – Oct 24
Hershey, PA

HAPPY BALLOONING !!!!!

Fly Days Report #3

Fly Days seemed to be have a hard time getting off the ground in early '99. After the first fly day was scheduled and announced in the *Crownlines*, we realized how filthy the Carleton field actually was. That was when we decided to also make that first event a clean-up day. It was a lovely warm afternoon, and a few good souls turned up with garbage bags and work gloves to pick up the garbage left from the winter snow dump. Thanks to Les Welsh, Debbie Wright, Dave Johns, Diane Casault, Todd Boucher Leslie Manion, David Lopushinsky, Stephanie Glover, Sandra Shannon, and Brian Baker who scoured the field and came up with 12 bags full!

Despite the blue sky and light winds, the weather office was warning of dust devils. Stephanie cancelled but Sandra went out to Manotick to fly, and a few of us went off to beer and dinner.

The next Fly Day was the CHEO charity tether set for the hospital's 25th birthday party on May 16. Ron Eades was again the organizer of this event, which was actually the third attempt at doing something for the children and parents who frequent the hospital. But, alas, it was not to be - again. "Third time lucky" did not apply. Ron does not feel confident enough to pick another date, though we are considering a fall thing.

The June 5 Fly Day/Crew Appreciation Day seemed to prove that only one pilot appreciates her crew. And that would be Sandra

Shannon - the only pilot to show up at member Caroline Spence's house. (Although pilots Bill Whelan and Janet Power showed up, they did so *after* the all-important cooking, so we can't count them). Sandra did a fine job of the cooking duties, but even the crew to be appreciated and cooked for was in short supply - Diane Casault, Gary Moreau, Laurie Manion, Debbie Wright, David Lopushinsky, and me) Hmm. That flight was also scrubbed due to wind.

And, the Shawville Fly Day was cancelled. Now, we did have a good one on May 30 (see Sandra's report), and I did hear that seven balloons turned up for the Navan Fly Day. Phew! that's a relief! For awhile I was thinking that it was only the Fly Days I was associated with were a bit of a bust. Can't be! Can it?

Leslie Manion

Submissions to The Crownlines

The deadlines for submissions for 1999 are tentatively set as follows:

Sunday, September 19, 1999
 Sunday, November 14, 1999

**WHERE'S
 BILL'S
 TRUCK?**

Pilot Sandra Shannon cooks burgers in appreciation of NCBC crew.



A DREAM FULFILLED

At Christmas 1998, I received a wonderful surprise. Along with a Christmas card from Roger Martin, Denis Rama, André Linocier and Jean-Jacques Roche, was an invitation to attend a balloon festival to be held June 4-6, 1999 in Annonay, France as a guest of Aeroclub de France and Chaize Balloons! I had dreamed of flying in France for many years and here was my chance to fly in the birthplace of hot air ballooning.

Annonay is located in the Ardeche region of France, part of the Rhone Valley. Each year during the festival participants re-enact the first balloon inflation, complete with period dress. Mother Nature smiled on the festival permitting three of four flights. For my first flight, I took off from the top of the city (it's built on a steep hill) and was thrilled to see the snow-capped French Alps to my left. Each flight was a stand-up landing at the base of the valley. On the Saturday, Denis Rama and I participated in a hare and hound flight. I guess we were a little too fast, as the hare had not yet placed the X. We threw the marker at the basket anyway and managed to come 4th out of 30.

At the closing ceremonies I was honoured to meet Roland and Xavier De Montgolfier, descendants of Joseph and Etienne De Montgolfier. The De Montgolfiers are still heavily involved in ballooning. It made me wonder how many of our descendants will be flying many generations from now.

Prior to the festival, I had the good

fortune to tour Paris as a guest of Jean-Christophe Carteron and family. Of course no Quebecker could pass up the chance to see Paris for the first time! I hit all the highlights of Paris including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame, Montmartre and the Bateaux Mouche. My touring was limited to walking distance due to the Metro and busses being on strike and unbelievable traffic jams.

I will always treasure the memory of my visit to the land of my forefathers and the incredibly warm hospitality of my hosts. I definitely want to visit France again.

Gilles Tremblay

UN QUÉBÉCOIS RENOUE AVEC SES RACINES

En décembre 1998, pour la période des fêtes, je recevais une surprise merveilleuse de la part de Roger Martin, Denis Rama, André Linocier et Jean-Jacques Roche, soit une invitation pour participer au festival des montgolfières qui devait avoir lieu du 4 au 6 juin 1999, à Annonay. Non seulement avais-je la chance d'aller sur les lieux de la naissance des montgolfières mais plus encore, de me rendre au pays de mes racines, la France.

En participant à cet événement, j'avais aussi la possibilité de revivre, avec costumes d'époque, les débuts de ce magnifique sport créé par les frères Montgolfier. Mère nature fut clémente pour ce festival et elle m'a permis de faire 3 envolées sur 4. À mon premier vol, je partis d'un escarpement assez prononcé au haut de la ville et je fus émerveillé de voir sous mes yeux, à ma gauche, le faite des Alpes couvert de belle neige blanche. Chaque

atterrissage c'est avéré un atterrissage debout dans la vallée. Le samedi, Denis et moi avons participé à la chasse au renard. Je crois que nous étions tellement heureux et nerveux qu'avant même que le X soit placé, nous avons lancé notre marqueur. Malgré tout, nous n'avons pas été si mauvais car nous nous sommes classé quatrième sur trente participants. Quel plaisir!

À la clôture des cérémonies, je fus très honoré de rencontrer Roland et Xavier De Montgolfier, descendants de Joseph et Étienne De Montgolfier. La race des Montgolfier est toujours activement impliquée dans les ballons à air chaud et c'est merveilleux. Ce qui m'a fait me poser la question à savoir combien de générations futures continueront de voler après nous tous?

Je ne peux passer sous silence le bonheur immense que j'ai eu de voir Paris pour la première fois, comme invité de la famille Jean-Christophe Carteron. Soyez assuré qu'aucun Québécois ne laisserait passer la chance de voir là où l'histoire des francophones a débuté. J'ai vu tous les coins importants, ou presque, de l'histoire y compris la Tour Eiffel, Notre Dame, le Louvre, Montmartre, place Trocadero, les bateaux mouches et la Seine. Mes visites se sont limitées là où mes pas pouvaient me porter à cause de la grève existante dans le métro et les bus. J'y ai vu un trafic fou, mais il faisait bon être au pays de mes ancêtres.

Enfin, je garderai en mémoire, jusqu'à la fin de ma vie, cette chance unique vécu auprès de gens dont l'hospitalité et l'accueil m'ont réchauffé le cœur et l'âme. Je retournerai certainement un jour visité à nouveau la France!

Gilles Tremblay

Gilles Tremblay and Mady Smits in their costumes for the reenactment.



Statue commemorating Joseph and Etienne De Montgolfier.



Pilot Gilles in front of the plaque is located at the site of the 1st hot air balloon launch.



The launch field with the Chateau Déomas.



Seminar? BBQ? Fly Day?

It's a seminar! No, it's a BBQ! No, it's a Fly Day! Why, it's three-three-three things in one! Since there just aren't enough days in the summer to do everything we want, we're doing as much as we can in one day.

Has a pilot ever asked you to do a daisy chain, and you've looked around for flowers? Have you ever driven the chase van 5 kilometers (or more) out of your way because you didn't know how to back up the trailer? Do you generally work on Aerostars and have no clue how a Cameron hooks up?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, you may want to join us for our **Knot Tying, Trailer Backing Up, and General Balloon Hookup Seminar**. (Phew! That's a mouthful!) And, if you answered "no," join us anyway for the BBQ and Fly Day that will follow.

When: Saturday, August 21, 2 pm

Where: Home of Lorraine & Guy Lafrance

(Take Hwy 31 South (Bank St.) past Vernon, Left at Ormond, approx. 8km up road)

What: Food and pop will be provided by Ron Eades and the club. Money raised from its sale will go to the Jason Lang Memorial Fund. Jason Lang, son of Alberta pilot Dale Lang, was killed in the Taber high school shooting.

This should be a fun and worthwhile afternoon, and we hope to see many members out. So we can ensure we have enough food, please call the **Club Hotline (247-6111)** to reply with the number of people attending.

Pilot Note: Any pilots interested in flying passengers for \$125 each, please call Lorraine at [REDACTED]

1999 NCBC Fly Day and Festival Schedule

Date	Day	Fly Day/Festival	Meeting Time	Launch Site/Location
Aug. 7 - 15		Festival		St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec
Aug. 21	Saturday	Fly Day + Seminar + BBQ	2:00 pm	Winchester (Lorraine Lafrance)
Sept. 3 - 06		Festival		Gatineau, Quebec
Sept. 10 - 13		Festival		Sussex, New Brunswick
Sept. 18	Saturday	CHEO Tether	3:00 pm	CHEO grounds
Sept. 25	Saturday	Fly Day	3:00 pm	Kemptville
Oct. 2	Saturday	Charity Tether	TBA	Great Pumpkin Caper RCMP grounds - St. Laurent Blvd.
Oct. 1 - 10		Festival		Alberquerque, New Mexico, USA
Oct. 16	Saturday	Fly Day	4:00 pm	Manotick Long Island
Oct 22 - 24		Festival		Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA
Oct. 30	Saturday	Fly Day + Hallowe'en Party	TBA	Navan (Stephanie Glover)

Forest Fair

Today's Forest ~ A Better Tomorrow

Of Eastern Ontario

September 25, 1999
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

G. Howard Ferguson Forest Station

275 Country Road 44, Kemptville, Ontario

Exhibits, Displays, Log and Lumber Auction ~ Activities for the whole Family

Sponsored By:

Township of North Grenville, G. Howard Ferguson Forest Station, Ministry of Natural Resources, Domtar, Ontario Woodlot Association, The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne & Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

While Bill Whelan bids a fond farewell to his trusty Ford after a gazillion kilometers and countless balloon festivals. Even Red Green and all the duct tape in the world could not save Bill's trusty rusty friend.

