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

The Crownlines

CARLETON U LAUNCH UPDATE

It has been almost three months since Duncan Watt, Vice-President of Finance & Administration of Carleton University, decided that balloons could no longer launch from the university grounds. Although he had been at the university for five years, he was not aware that balloons even launched from there. He asked that the club explain why balloons should be allowed to launch and asked the commercial companies to write for permission. We soon perceived that what he really wanted was balloon rides.

We asked the commercial pilots to donate gift certificates and that private pilots contribute with the annual spring clean up of the grounds after the snow melts.

We received certificates from the pilots and, after numerous phone calls (which Mr. Watt referred to as "Balloon Wars"), permission was re-established and our agreement with Carleton has been finalized.

So, thank you to all of those pilots who have sent or are sending gift certificates to Carleton University.

Mr. Watt has requested that pilots wishing launch privileges mail or fax their name and contact information to him with proof of insurance, which endorses Carleton University as an additional insured.



Upon receipt of this, he will provide you with a letter giving you launching permission. As the security guards have been advised to do spot checks, please make sure that your letters are in your vehicle. Send your letter of request to: Duncan Watt, VP Finance & Admin, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By

Leslie & Stephanie

CHRISTMAS EXCHANGE

This year's Great Pumpkin Caper, an October benefit for the Christmas Exchange, was a big success due to the involvement of many NCBC members.

Thanks to Les Welsh for handling the NCBC side of the second year of this charity tether. The entire event was improved in overall organization from last year. The NCBC volunteers were well received, and there were lots of Christmas Exchange volunteers to lend a hand.

Thanks, too, to Jan Bekooy for his efforts in producing a video for the Christmas Exchange's use.

The Christmas Exchange folks were very pleased with our participation as we are their most visible draw and help them in their fundraising activities.

Thanks to pilots King Glover, Dave Ryan, Ron Eades, Nim Moussa, and the companies they represent. And thank you to the families and crew who came out to help such a worthwhile cause. It is people like you who keep our ballooning community and relations so incredibly strong.

Many thanks to everyone who participated!!!!

NCBC Board

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Just a reminder that the 2000 membership fees are now due. Avoid the rush - fill in the attached membership form and enclose your cheque. Send to NCBC Membership, PO Box 78081, Meriline RPO, Nepean, ON, K2E 1B1.

LANDOWNER RELATIONS

Congratulations to Lionel Duron of Richmond who won a gift certificate from Canadian Tire. He was one of the people who mailed in his landowner appreciation form given to him by pilot Sandra Shannon.

Thanks to the pilots who made the effort to fill in their forms and leave them with their landowners. We hope that we can involve ALL our NCBC pilots next year to help ensure that our local landowner relations continues to improve.

END OF SEASON WRAP-UP PARTY

The NCBC celebrated the end of the 1999 ballooning season with a fun-filled fly day/ Hallow'en costume/Oktoberfest party at President Stephanie's Navan home. While it was too windy for most people to fly, King did get a flight in. Meanwhile there were some interesting characters showing up at the house. There was a Ninja, a mutant baseball player, Zorro, Marlene Cowpland,

a biker chic, a witch, even a singed Mountie (see the news paper article from Dallas for the relevance). There was a great feast of sausage, chili, and assorted munchies, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Stephanie, Todd, Josh, Zach, and Ethan for their hospitality.

THE TETHER SPOT

Congratulations to Frank Bellontini for the extra addition to his family - a new baby boy, born on October 3.

More boys! Laura and Dan Kelly welcomed another son, Nathan Michael on October 16.

Non-baby news! Congratulations to Carolyn Mitrow on her recent marriage. And for those of you who are asking, as many of us did, "who the hell is Carolyn Mitrow?"... that would be the Carolyn Connelly of old. And in this day and age.....

More babies????!!! Sundance's Ross McAlpine and his new wife are expecting their first baby in February.

Congratulations to Stephanie Glover and her sister Nancy Lee of Glover Custom Trade who made *Canadian Business* and *Chatelaine* magazines' list as one of the top 100 Canadian businesses run by women. You go, girls!

**NCBC CLUB
HOTLINE
(613) 247-6111**

December 1999

MOUNTIE HAS BLAZED LAST TRAIL

September 25, 1999

By Jacquelyn Floy
from The Dallas Morning News

What a day! There we were, riding in a wicker picnic hamper slung underneath a big inflated horse belly, floating across the sky over Collin County. That was us, waving grandly when construction workers hollered and drivers tootled their horns in astonishment as our hot-air balloon - shaped like a Canadian Mountie on horseback and as tall as a 15-story bank tower - floated over their heads. Us again, flailing in panic and stomping desperately at the flames when the whole shebang caught fire.

Let me back up a little here. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's famous performing unit is appearing at the State Fair of Texas this year. Nothing says "Canada" like the Mounties, and no Mountie is more visible than when he's 130 feet tall and flying overhead. So the Canada tourism people sent their big balloon to Dallas for a few days as well.

It was a quickie stopover for the balloon while it was on its way to Albuquerque for the annual Balloon Fiesta, where it made such a splash last year that it was voted most popular among such other festive balloon shapes as clowns and dinosaurs and the Michelin Man. The Canadians generously offered me a ride while the balloon was in town, so we lifted off just after dawn Friday.

NOT TO BE MISSED

It was fabulous. If anybody ever offers you a balloon ride, snap it up. If they offer you a ride in a balloon shaped like a huge cartoon figure, camp out on their doorstep, because I will never attract more attention than I did Friday morning.

Kevin Pilgrim, the Big Mountie's pilot, is used to cars stopping on the freeways, cattle stampeding, upturned faces with mouths agape when he flies over. As we drifted over one country road, a minivan below screeched to a halt. The driver jumped out and reached in to get something. "Kid or camera?" Kevin asked casually. (It was a child, so excited that he whooped and danced in the road).

And every dog for miles around went stark raving bonkers. They ran in crazed circles and sounded a chain-reaction bark alarm that spread from yard to yard, subdivision to subdivision: *Warning! Huge airborne Canadian Mountie approaching!*

Ballooning, it turns out, is an imprecise science. Up and down are controlled by vast propane burners, but you go where the wind takes you, and you land where you find a field. Kevin brought us down expertly and told me to brace for landing, which generally involves being dragged along in the basket till the balloon deflates.

The Crownlines

Kevin shut the propane off, but one of the burners threw off a spark as we landed - not much to do about it while you're hunkered sideways in a runaway wicker box - and it fell in the dry, weedy field behind us.

UH-OH

By the time we crawled out of the basket, the field was ablaze. Passers-by ran to help, and we all stomped in a frantic clog dance, trying to kill the flames. But by the time firefighters from Anna and Winchester and who knows where arrived, the fire was chewing fiercely into the big, floppy deflated balloon.

This would be a much more dramatic tale had the flames reached the propane tanks in the passenger basket, but Kevin very sensibly got it unhooked and clear of the fire. I melted the soles of my sneakers stomping out flames but was otherwise unscathed.

There was just the one casualty. A kindly fireman from Richardson broke the news to Kevin as gently as he knew how. "Partner," he said soberly, "I'm afraid Dudley didn't make it." I felt bad about the balloon, but I loved the ride. Later in the day, I met a real Mountie named Inspector Gaudet who took news of the balloon's demise with Canadian sang-froid.

"Eh, it happens," he said, shrugging. "I'm just glad it wasn't ..."

Just glad it wasn't you, I waited for him to finish.

"I'm just glad it wasn't a horse."

1999 CBA AWARDS 1999 CBA AWARDS 1999 CBA AWARDS

**The Canadian Balloon Association Safety Award for Outstanding Contribution to the
Safety of the Sport of Ballooning in Canada
(in memory of Bill Traynor)**

Bill Traynor, a Calgary pilot, was a firm believer in adhering to the rules and would always speak up when something was not being done properly. This award recognizes individuals, clubs or organizations that have contributed to ballooning safety in Canada. Contributions may include publication of safety material, development or manufacture of safety equipment, organization of safety seminars, or Safety Officer at ballooning events.

The Canadian Balloon Association is proud to present the 1999 Safety Award to *Malcolm McLeod* in recognition of his many years of service to the Canadian Balloon Association as Safety Officer at numerous Canadian competitions including North American Championships, the 1991 World Hot Air Balloon Championship (St. Jean-sur-Richelieu) and the 1998 World Hot Air Airship Championship (Gatineau).

The award is sponsored by the Standard Life Insurance Company.

Awarded by: Mary Anne Stevens, President, Canadian Balloon Association in Gatineau, Quebec, September 1999.

**The Canadian Balloon Association Competition Support Award for Outstanding
Contribution to the Sport of Ballooning in Canada**

Competitive ballooning is very demanding on pilots, crew, officials, organizations and hosting communities. The Competition Support Award recognizes the significant contributions that individuals, communities and organizations devote to hosting and officiating sport ballooning events.

The Canadian Balloon Association is proud to present the 1999 Competition Support Award to *Carolyn Connolly* in recognition of her continued efforts in supporting Canadian competitive ballooning. From her initial role as a general assistant at local events she has worked closely with Competition Directors at Canadian, International and World Championships to provide operational support and liaison with Transport Canada and event organizers.

Awarded by: Mary Anne Stevens, President, Canadian Balloon Association in Gatineau, Quebec, September 1999.

**The Canadian Balloon Association Service Award for Outstanding Contribution to the
Sport of Ballooning in Canada**

The success of the Canadian Balloon Association, as a national organization, requires the volunteer efforts of many people. Some members go beyond the normal responsibilities to perform outstanding service to the Association in areas of administration, events, promoting ballooning and working with the public. The CBA Service Support Award recognizes the significant contributions that individuals make to support ballooning in Canada.

The Canadian Balloon Association is proud to present the 1999 Service Award to *Kathleen Andersen* in recognition of her contributions to Canadian ballooning as Editor of the CBA Journal for almost two years during which time she increased participation by the Canadian ballooning community while emphasizing that we are part of the global ballooning fraternity. Our thanks go to Kathleen for her dedicated efforts in producing the Journal.

Awarded by: Mary Anne Stevens, President, Canadian Balloon Association in Gatineau, Quebec, September 1999.

WINTERLUDE 2000

As of the beginning of December, the NCBC is a participating activity in Winterlude for the February 11, 12, 13 weekend. We are not a full-blown festival as that is dependent on corporate sponsorship. So, for now, it will be a pay-as-you-go weekend. Hotels will be available at a reduced rate; however, billeting may also be an option. We are negotiating free propane and looking into champagne. Tether spots are available for \$150 for the Fiesta weekend or \$200 for two Winterlude weekends. There will be tether spots by the Dow's Lake Pavilion and near the snow sculptures.

The NCC still won't let us launch from the ice (it seems they have a long memory and remember unauthorized flights from the past.) However, we have managed to secure launch privileges from the arboretum near the ice. We will be organizing socials and the back-up no-launch plan will be a skating party.

We are looking forward to a great weekend! We hope our local pilots and crew will be involved and that we will see many of our out-of-town balloon friends joining us. Invitations are being sent out, but if you would like more info, please contact Stephanie or Leslie

1999 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1999 AGM of the NCBC will be held on Monday, January 17, at 6:30pm at Louis' Restaurant on Cyrville Road. The following board positions will be up for re-election: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as two directors' positions. If anyone would like to run for the board, please contact Tina Daniels at 225-2689 or rat



Whelan, Diane Casault, Tina Daniels, and Dave Johns reviewed the existing NCBC by-laws this year. Attached are the proposed amendments to be voted on at the AGM. If you do not have a copy of the by-laws



WANTED

Anyone who is interested or able to billet out-of-town pilots or crew for the February 11, 12, 13 weekend, is asked to call



Please indicate how many you can accept and any preferences or restrictions you may have.

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
Meriline RPO
Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B1

We partied till the cows came home...or maybe a bit longer.....

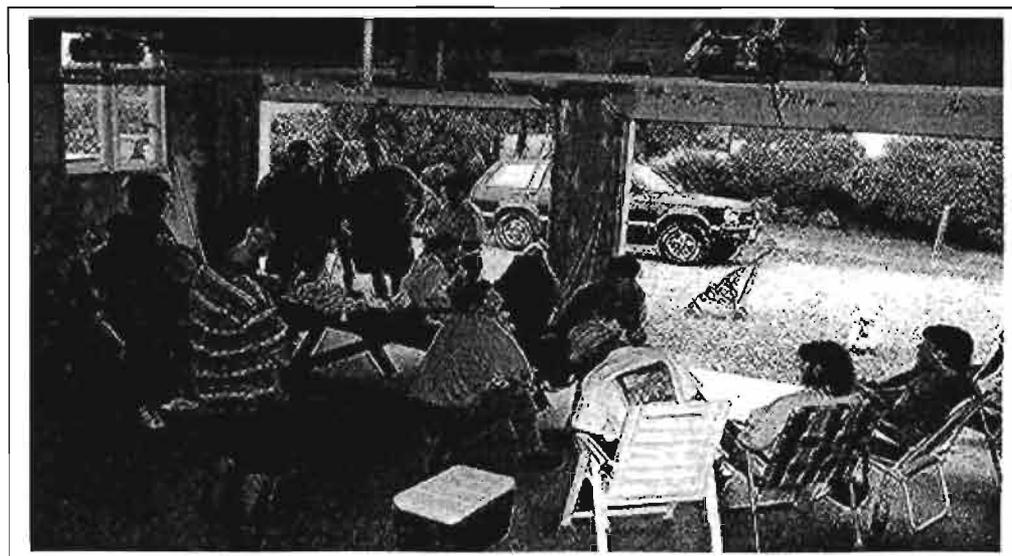


It was a cloudy, rainy August day in town as we headed out to the O'Farrell-Lafrance homestead in the heart of Winchester. The city weather didn't look promising for a fly day but the weather in the country seemed okay. We met Steph and Lorraine walking back from Lorraine's in-laws carrying huge bags of freshly picked corn which they'd picked it themselves.

The NCBC crowd started arriving, as did the wind. Just to be on the safe side, we moved the cars out of the double garage and moved the picnic table and chairs in. The ropes came out and Bill and Gilles gave some rope-tying tips. A few people wanted to try their hand at backing up a trailer, so Bill coached us individually through a back up. And what better vehicle to use than Stephanie and Todd's NEW truck!

We even got to feed the cows with the left over cornhusks (see photo). The BBQ was lit up and, by the time we had finished eating, the wind had died, and it was a lovely evening. We trotted across the street and blew up some balloons. Didn't go far but had a nice flight nonetheless and most of us landed in the same field.

We were pleased to have raised \$100 for the Jason Lang Memorial Fund. Thanks to those who came out and especially to Lorraine and Denis who opened their house to us.



I am telling
all of you -.
Do Not
Touch the
red truck....

BECANCOUR - WIND, WATER, FOG

What more could balloonists ask for if they wanted to sleep in or catch up on some badly need rest? Welcome to Becancour, a wonderful place to visit and fly. I remember some real nice flying in the Three Rivers area, but not this year when I really wanted to be in the air. At least the FUZZY PINK LAMP had a wonderful time.

(You ask what is the FUZZY PINK LAMP? Well, next balloon festival keep an eye open for the FUZZY PINK LAMP and you could

become immortalized. Watch for the newest hood ornament and join the fun. The FPL is an ESCAPEE from a FAMOUS BALLOON MUSEUM. Ask our balloon crew to tell you the story.)

Now back to Becancour - what to do when we can't fly? We came up with new and exciting games. How about Petals Around The Rose, or Once You Know You Never Tell, or Chinese Roman Numerals - all provide hours of fun with plenty of laughs. Next time you're at a festival with Wild Bill, just ask. The next big activity was shopping. I thought it was great to go with the ladies while they shopped for special intimate items. Too bad I missed the fashion show.

As a result of the weather, most balloons left Sunday after breakfast for the ride home. We look forward to next year when the organizers PROMISE real good weather.

*Bill Whelan &
Gilles Tremblay*

NEW BALLOON FESTIVAL IN LONDON, ONTARIO

What are you doing on June 23-25, 2000?

After almost 25 years of offering a traditional airshow at the London International Airport, the Airport Authority has chosen to fly in a different direction as it enters the New Millenium. This year, Sundance Balloons will be managing and operating a new annual balloon event which is scheduled for June 23-25, 2000.

Sundance plans to put on a first-class balloon festival similar to what we have come to expect from Gatineau and St. Jean-sur-Richeleu. Although still in the early planning stages, Sundance is pleased to have long-time balloonist Dave Roberts as the Balloonmeister of the event.

Sundance hopes to attract 25-35 balloons and 5-10 shapes. As well, they hope the CBA will consider allowing the Canadian Balloon Championship to be held in conjunction with the event.