

Silver Dart

Canada's LGBTQ+ Aviation Newsletter
Le bulletin LGBTQ+ en Aviation du Canada

March **2023** Mars

Canadian Aviation Pride
Fierté en aviation canadienne



"Connecting Canada's LGBTQ+ Aviation Community Since 2008"
"Rassembler la communauté en aviation LGBTQ+ du Canada depuis 2008"



Happy March everyone,

I hope people have been able to get up flying. The weather has been pretty bad of late but this shouldn't last much longer and people should be able to get up again soon. Those working commercially, let's hope the deice fluid doesn't run out just yet.

So much has changed since March 2020, from good times to bad and back to good times. The industry has roared back. I know many of you have been getting upgrades and new jobs moving up the food chain.

After many years, I finally was able to hold the time off work and make it down to Palm Springs for the NGPA, National Gay Pilots Association, Winter Warm Up gathering.

The last time I was there was 2001 just before things got ugly. It's changed a lot and is a huge event. It's evolved from a social gathering for gay pilots to a huge industry expo.

The Winter Warm up starts off with an industry expo for two days. If you have the right to work in the USA, this is a great event. All the Major US carriers are there and several I wasn't familiar with.

Then in the evenings and Week end there are lots of social events where the LGBTQ+ aviators get together. Lots of tasty food and airplanes to be found.

I did manage to see one other Canadian there helping out with the ALPA booth and representing Canada. Go Jonathan!

Otherwise, the Expo is targeted mostly to American pilots to network and drop off resumes and get noticed by the airlines. I've never seen this kind of thing before where Airlines are recruiting. When I was starting my career, you couldn't get a chief pilot to return phone calls and you were lucky to get a letter back saying thank you for your resume.... Now airlines are bringing their hiring teams and doing on the spot interviews.

If you are Canadian and interested in making three times what we make in Canada, you'll need to figure out how to get that work visa or Green Card. The carriers aren't sponsoring foreign pilots....yet.

When I started working, I wanted to go straight from flight school and quickly get to the airlines to fly the big planes but my career didn't play out that way. I started off as a bush pilot and gained hours and had a chance to flying Skydivers, cargo, commuter, even tourists in the Maldives on the venerable

Twin Otter on floats. Now flying for an airline, I wouldn't give up the adventure that I have had. I kinda feel sad for some of these new pilots who are missing out on some real fun, flying the small planes into obscure places off the beaten path. It's been a meandering career path for me with some challenges with people who weren't very welcoming to a gay pilot.

It's better now but there is still work to do.

It's a lot easier now for gay cis men to be out pilots but the challenges are still there. Women, Indigenous, People of colour are all still sorely underrepresented. I know there are some unicorns out there, such as the Transgender pilots who have been discriminated against. Young trans pilots

are starting their careers and I hope they will not face discrimination. I hope you'll help support them when you meet them.

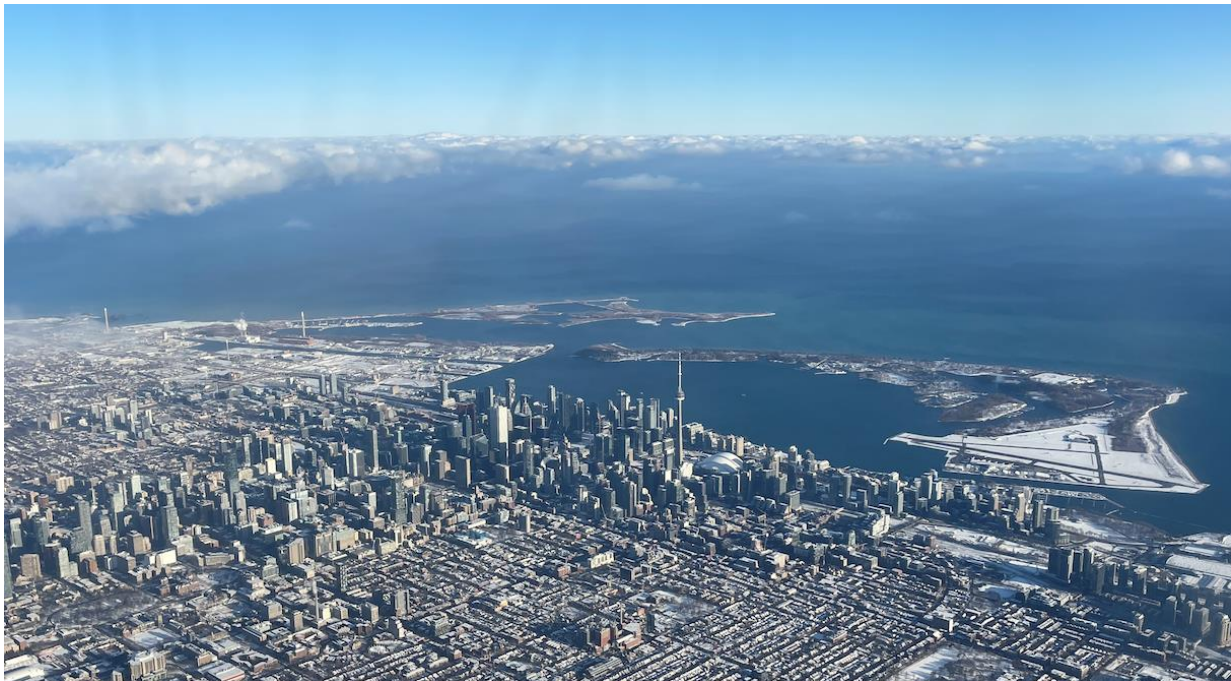
Unfortunately Transport Canada still discriminates and doesn't have Gender X on medical documents. I wrote a letter a while back and received a political double speak letter back that really didn't say anything.

I urge you to write the Minister of Transport and your MP to encourage them to stop the discrimination of our Transgender and non binary pilots.

We will continue to push for this and need your help.

In the meantime, fly safe!

Peter Litherland
Co-Chair
Canadian Aviation Pride
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Taken 24th February 2023 over Toronto



In January 2018, we renamed this newsletter from the highly imaginative title of "*Monthly Newsletter*" to the "*Silver Dart*"

The name came from J.A.D. McCurdy's aircraft of the same name in which he flew the first controlled powered flight in Canada at Baddeck, Nova Scotia on 23rd February 1909.

In Canada we celebrate the day as '*National Aviation Day*', and though it was just under a week ago, here was CAP's poster for the event.



Our Co-Chair Peter and his partner went down to Palm Springs (just missing my departure by a few days unfortunately) for the NGPA's Winter Warm-up convention, and we are pleased to bring you some of their photos of the always-enjoyable event.

We're not quite yet out of the icy grip of winter, but we can look forward to spring and the start of our CAP annual events, listed in our 'Flight Plan 2023' calendar in this issue.

This month's cover photo of the Northern Lights was taken by Peter over the prairies south-east of Winnipeg in late January this year from his Sunwings cockpit. Thanks Peter!

Best wishes,

Adrian Walker
Editor & Co-Chair

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Aviation Cartoon



Caricature en aviation



by [Kelly Kincaid](#)

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Flight Plan 2023



Plan de vol 2023

Vancouver

Monday 1 July
Sunday 6 August
December

Canada Day fireworks party
CAP Vancouver Pride Booth
Year end party

Toronto

13 May
23 – 25 June
Friday 23 June
December

Girls Can Fly - Waterloo Wellington Flight Centre
CAP Toronto Pride Booth
Pre-Pride pub night
Year end party

Montréal

Friday 11 August
Saturday 12 August
December

Fierté Take-off at Sky Lounge
CAP Montréal Pride Booth
Year end party

External Organizations Organisations externes

24 – 30 July
11 – 13 August
21 October

EAA AirVenture – Oshkosh WI
Abbotsford Airshow
Northern Lights Award Gala, Pearson Convention Centre, Brampton



Here are a few photos of the Grumman F7F Tigercat at the Palm Springs Air Museum on 28 January this year – another in their 'open cockpit' series which we enjoyed.



The cockpit



The view from the pilot's seat

Photo Album



Album photo

In early February our Co-Chair Peter and his partner Leo went down to Palm Springs for the NGPA's Winter Warm-up convention. Here are a few photos they took of the event.



Evening reception in one of the hangars of the Palm Springs Air Museum



Some hero shots!



Another hangar



Outside the Convention Centre



Zoom Social

Coming up this Friday 3rd March at 5:00 pm PST, 8:00 pm EST is our monthly Zoom social. It's a chance to connect and reconnected with other LGBTQ+ Canadian Aviators, allies and enthusiasts from you home, work or on the road. Share all the news and rumours in the industry!



Each month we may have a theme, so check with Facebook or Instagram to find out the latest. You'll need the zoom app, a browser or you can even call in. otherwise click the link to join.

We challenge you to use a virtual background with a Canadian Aviation Theme. Occasional prizes and gifts for participants.

Please the Join Zoom Meeting by clicking the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84449880517...>

Meeting ID: 844 4988 0517
Passcode: 1867



Merchandise



Marchandise



Canadian Aviation Pride Merchandise



We're online!

You can now show your Pride with these great items and support Canadian Aviation Pride! Using the Fulfilment by Amazon you don't have to wait until Pride any more to get some swag.

visit our online store at:

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On Line



En ligne

Web Page - Page Web



Canadian Aviation Pride's Web Page contains information about our organization, our objectives and who we are. Check it out, including our Resources and Newsletter pages!

<http://www.aviationpride.ca>

La page Web de Canadian Aviation Pride contient de l'information sur notre organisation, nos objectifs et qui nous sommes. Découvrez-le, y compris nos pages des ressources et des bulletins!

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Sponsors & Partners



Commanditaires et Partenaires

CAP is Canada's own federally incorporated LGBTQ+ Aviation organization, and we appreciate the relationship with each of the following sponsors and partners who support our outreach programs. This allows us to maintain our diversity and inclusion initiatives, promotional programs and encouragement of youth entry into aviation. **Please support these progressive companies and organizations.**



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Member Profile



Profil d'un member

Would you like to be featured in our Monthly Member Profile? Everyone is welcome to submit their profile, whether you're a long time member or are new to Canadian Aviation Pride. You can answer as many or as few of the questions as you feel comfortable with, and use of your last name and employer are optional. If you'd like to share your story, [CLICK HERE](#)

Souhaitez-vous figurer dans notre profil de membre mensuel? Tout le monde est invité à soumettre son profil, que vous soyez un membre de longue date ou un nouveau membre de Canadian Aviation Pride. Vous pouvez répondre à autant de questions que vous le souhaitez, ou en utiliser le moins possible, et l'utilisation de votre nom de famille et de votre employeur est facultative. Si vous souhaitez partager votre histoire, [CLIQUEZ ICI](#)



In Closing



En clôture

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. As we get closer to each event, we will send out further details and a reminder.

If you would like to volunteer or help lead an event, or if you have ideas you would like us to consider, please don't hesitate to let us know. Email us at info@aviationpride.ca.

Blue skies and tail winds!

CANADIAN AVIATION PRIDE
FIERTÉ EN AVIATION CANADIENNE
www.aviationpride.ca

Merci d'avoir pris le temps de lire notre bulletin. Plus proche de chaque événement, nous enverrons d'autres détails et un rappel.

Si vous voulez être un bénévole, ou aider à diriger un événement, ou si vous avez des idées à nous soumettre, n'hésitez pas à nous le faire savoir. Envoyez-nous un courriel à info@aviationpride.ca.

Ciel bleu et vent arrière!



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