



## President's Message - Difficult Times

If your MAAC membership is current, then you would have received two recent update emails from the MAAC President (Apr 13 & 25) about their progress in issuing the new Site Operating Certificates to various MAAC sanctioned fields. I know it is all very confusing but here is a SIMPLIFIED summary of where things stand.



- 1) First of all, NOT ALL aerodromes (think commercial airports, private airfields, heliports, etc.) are surrounded by controlled airspace circles. Only aerodromes with operating flight air traffic control towers have defined controlled airspace circles. The larger the airport the larger the circle. Smaller aerodromes (like small town airports and private fields) are not controlled but have rules about what you can and cannot do within 3 nautical miles.
- 2) Since 2019 MAAC sanctioned clubs have been able to fly model airplanes between 250g and 25Kg under the terms of an exemption to the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CAR) Part IX.
- 3) All MAAC sanctioned fields were closed in November 2022 because of administrative errors at MAAC that violated the conditions of the exemption.
- 4) Since that time MAAC has been busy re-writing safety rules and procedures and started to issue new Site Operating Certificates (SOCs) to clubs whose fields are not in controlled airspace.
- 5) Clubs that have received new SOC's are now able to fly provided they comply with all terms of CAR Part IX. Mainly this means:
  - a. All pilots must pass the RPAS Basic Certificate exam.
  - b. All models must be registered with Transport Canada at \$5.00 each.
  - c. All pilots must maintain maintenance logs of their aircraft.
  - d. Pilots must file a site survey with the new RPAS Wilco application before the first flight of the day at any site.
- 6) Until now, only fields in uncontrolled airspace have been candidates for the new SOC's. There are 378 such fields and so far, 282 have been issued SOC's with 96 still to go.
- 7) Unfortunately, our field is just inside the controlled airspace circle of Pearson Airport so we are one of the additional 76 clubs in controlled airspace and cannot fly even under CAR Part IX unless a new exemption is approved from Transport Canada. The most recent update from MAAC says they are finally getting to the point of meeting with NAV Canada and Transport Canada early in May to discuss proposals that would lead to a new exemption allowing fields in controlled airspace to open.

## Discussion

This is a lot to process but it means that we will still be closed for some time and possibly lose the whole 2023 flying season. As your executive, we have had lengthy meetings and discussions to see if there is anything else we can do. The Internet forums have lit up with anger and frustration against

MAAC for getting us into this situation and we share much of this sentiment. However, MAAC has been around for over 70 years, and it seems hasty to abandon MAAC even if they have made bad decisions that they are trying to correct.

It should not surprise you that some clubs have left MAAC or are talking about it, but these are mostly clubs that are NOT in controlled airspace so they have better options. But, since Humber Valley is in controlled airspace, it is not clear that we can achieve permission to fly without MAAC. And breaking from MAAC or giving up your MAAC membership, makes it illegal for you to fly at any MAAC sanctioned competitions or events or any MAAC sanctioned field that does have a SOC.

## Conclusions

So for now, we are pushing MAAC hard but we are also trying to be patient and let them do their work. Many of you are looking for or have found other clubs to join. We are also negotiating with other clubs to see if we can get permission to fly at other fields for selected dates or events in 2023.

## Club Membership

Since the field is currently closed, we have decided not to accept new members until further notice. Also as previously announced, your 2023 Humber Valley membership will remain good through 2024. You can download and print a new 2024 membership card from the club website in the member section.

## Spring Cleanup and BBQ

We are still scheduled to hold our usual spring cleanup and BBQ because we still need to maintain the field while all this is going on. This is also a good chance to get together to see old friends after a long winter. See the notice in this Flyer. Hope you can make it.

## Swap Meet

This is still a go at the moment. See the notice in this Flyer.

## Indoor Flying

We were able to book four indoor flying dates over the summer months. We hope this helps you get in some stick time. Never tried flying indoor? Come out and have a look. It's a blast!

## RPAS Certificates

Regardless of how this ends up, it seems that any RC flying in Canada is almost certainly going to require pilots to pass Transport Canada's Small Basic RPAS Certification exam. In preparation for that, we have created a web page which contains all the required information and links that you will need to study and pass the Small Basic RPAS exam. You will find it on our web site under the "Members" tab. Or use this link:

## [How to get your basic RPAS certificate – Humber Valley Radio Control Flyers \(hvrcf.org\)](http://www.hvrcf.org)

So until we hear more news from MAAC, heads up folks, we are fighting for you and for all RC pilots in Canada, and we will let you know as soon as we have any further information.

## Letter Campaign

Thanks to everyone who sent letters to the Minister of Transport and/or your local MP. We still think this is an important step in letting Transport Canada know our feelings.

... Zoltan Pittner, President



### Calendar of Upcoming Events for 2023

Sat May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Humber Valley Field Clean Up Day
Sat May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Humber Valley Free Outdoor Swap Meet – To be confirmed
Sun Jun 25 <sup>th</sup> Sat Jul 8 <sup>th</sup> Sat Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sun Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	Indoor flying is back at the York University Gym. Mark these dates and watch for reminders.

**Field is Closed!!! ☹️ No New Members will be Accepted Until Further Notice!**

We have no choice but to keep the field closed until further notice. But we will still be maintaining the grass and keeping things in tip top shape. You will be the first to know when we re-open. But until then we are not accepting new members.



### Free Humber Outdoor Swap Meet and BBQ Planned for May 27, 2023



Last year the free outdoor swap meet at our field was very successful, so Program Director **John Kita** is planning it again this year. We will invite other clubs to our field for a giant outdoor free swap meet on May 27th. If we decide to

go ahead, we will send out a separate invitation to hobby shops, MAAC, and other nearby GTA and surrounding area clubs.

### Field Clean Up Day and BBQ Sat May 6<sup>th</sup> - 10am (Rain Date Sun May 7<sup>th</sup>)



Mark your calendars and help the club start the season on Sat May 6<sup>th</sup>. We need your help to get the field ready for spring. Here is a list of some of the work that needs to get done.

1. General Trash clean up; entry-parking lot, field, helipad, runway edges - bring work gloves
2. Fencing south of gate post; add metal fencing south of fencepost, add post between gate post and existing post.
3. Trees: remove two dead trees at west end of field, remove stump between container and charging hut - requires digging out around tree trunk - and cutting out roots. Bring shovels, axe, saw.
4. Geotextile Runway; make sure staples are set along edges, repair any tears.

Program Director **John Kita** will be pressing the BBQ into service for this event, so after the cleanup, stick around for food and fun. We will be restricted to the following other events:

- Ground RC car obstacle course and race. Bring in your electric RC vehicles to participate.
- Kite flying and aerobatic kite competition.
- Anybody have control line models? Bring it on!
- How about model rockets?



### Indoor Flying @ York University Great News!

Indoor flying is back on at York for the summer. We have been able to get four weekend mornings from June to August. Mark these dates in your calendar and lookout for email reminders the week before the date. Hope you can make it!



- Jun 25 – 9am -11am - Sunday
- Jul 08 – 9am - 11am - Saturday
- Jul 22 – 9am -11am - Saturday
- Aug 06 – 9am -11am - Sunday

and will let you know when they are confirmed. Stay tuned ...

### Club 2023 Renewals

\*\*\* Now Good for 2024! \*\*\*

Because of what is going on at MAAC, you may be wondering if you should renew your club membership for 2023. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you so much for supporting the club in this difficult time. We need a strong membership to influence MAAC and Transport Canada to get us flying again.

**If you renew for 2023, we will extend your membership to 2024 as well. It's the least we can do in return for your support!**

You can download and print a new 2024 membership card from the club website in the member section. The renewal fees is now \$100.00.

### Your 2023 Club Executive

President, Zoltan Pittner ..... (416) 823-0796  
 Past President and Editor, Tom Gottlieb..... (647) 642-8100  
 Vice President, Paul McMillan ..... (647) 618-8291  
 Treasurer & Membership, Bruce Gillespie ..... (416) 741-4385  
 Secretary, Gaetano Nicolo..... (647) 987-0619  
 Program Director, John Kita ..... (416) 710-1156  
 Field Officer, Walter Lam ..... (416) 433-0106  
 Chief Flight Instructor, Randall Thomas..... (647) 545-5494  
 Chief Safety Officer, Randall Thomas..... (647) 545-5494