

ANDRÉ BOUCHER AND GARRY LOCKYER RECEIVE THE JEAN BOILEAU AWARD FLIGHT DIRECTORS HONOURED AT 35TH FMG!

August ————— 20
4th ————— 22

Gatineau - The Jean Boileau Award, which annually recognizes the involvement of those who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the FMG, will be presented this year to two former flight directors, André Boucher and Garry Lockyer. Both of whom have left their mark not only on the Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival, but also on the world of hot air ballooning. The flight directors play a crucial role in the organisation of a balloon festival, overseeing the flights and analysing the available data to give the green light for pilots to launch.

Garry Lockyer was awarded this year's CIA Montgolfier Diploma 2022 by the Ballooning Commission of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (CIA) for his contribution to the sport of ballooning. This is not surprising, as he is known to have left his mark on all continents, from Asia to Europe and Australia to America. He first became a pilot in 1978 and has accumulated more than 1,700 flying hours. Flight director for the first fourteen editions of the FMG, he has participated in countless competitions, be it as a competitor, jury, president or organiser.

"As flight director and with his involvement in the world of aerostation, Garry Lockyer was instrumental in establishing the reputation of the Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival, attracting many foreign pilots and holding competitive flights in the Outaouais skies, including the Canadian Hot Air Balloon Championship and the Intercontinental Race between the Saga Festival in Japan, the Glenn Falls Festival in New York and the Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival. He was also involved in bringing the World Hot Air Balloon Championship to Gatineau in 1998," explains Jean Boileau, founder of the FMG and Director of Communications for the City of Gatineau.

André Boucher is one of the most experienced pilots in Quebec. He was the sixth pilot from la Belle Province and completed his first flight in 1979. It was love at first flight! Founder of the Festivent, he was flight director in Gatineau from 2001 to 2019 and has flown all over Canada and the United States. For several years, he perfected the concept of the nightly illuminations presented in Gatineau, during which the hot-air balloons glow to the rhythm of the music. Under his guidance, the FMG became the first festival to use Google Earth to visualize the flights during the pilot briefing.

"Courtesy, kindness, attentiveness and above all, a passion for ballooning, this is how we can sum up André Boucher's character traits. This makes him the prince of pilots. Thanks to these qualities, he knows how to rally the pilots around his decisions, come rain, shine, or fierce winds, in the Parc de la Baie", adds Jean Boileau.

The official presentation of the award will take place on the Casino Lac-Leamy Stage during the FMG.

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