

COPA at work

Recently I have had a few exchanges with some members about not sharing enough of what we do, or what we have done, for you the member. So, let me explain what we do and, more importantly, how we do it. (You can also read my October 2017 column, available on our website. It talks about advocacy.)

Not everything we do is public or made public, as you would expect. A lot is done one-on-one with the appropriate individuals, sometimes formally, sometimes not. Pushing the right buttons, talking with the right person at the right time, making sure we have a friendly ear that can listen to us and vice-versa, are all part of our methodology. So is working with other associations that are close to us and speaking up together. It's what lobbying is all about. It is the end result that counts and it is not always in our collective best interest to share at large the tactics during the process.

A prime example being cited is the Buttonville airport (CYKZ) tower closure. In the CYKZ case, I agree that we may not have talked enough about the efforts COPA put in, so I invite you to turn to the Letters to the Editor section in this issue where you can find more details. We always look for the best outcome for the association and the collectivity; in other words, we need to pick our battles.

COPA is regularly consulted by the regulator (Transport Canada) and Nav Canada on just about every issue that concerns GA in the country before anything moves. Rarely does anything go out that we don't know of or have not been consulted about. Our goal is to take a national stance on issues and for our Flights and local members to be able to apply it locally.

Other examples we have been working on for a long time on are the ADS-B mandate, maintenance issues, owner maintenance questions, recreational pilot and reciprocity with the U.S. and their special BasicMed medicals that are not allowed here in Canada. Harmonizing seminars and rust removers across the country is another example. In other words, there is lots and lots of work going on. If you have any questions, please give me a call or write me at bgervais@copanational.org.

ALL FOR FLIGHT Stories

We have received a few stories that convey the joy, that feeling of being up there, that drives us: *All For Flight*. Please keep them coming; send them to steve@copaflight.ca.

Season's Greetings

Why not enjoy the winter flying season at its best by giving yourself the gift of 'safety' for under \$100? Go for a flight with an instructor; it'll be money well spent.

Wishing everyone the best during this holiday period, I encourage you to take the time for you and yours, to rest and enjoy the season. See you in 2020!