

# Profiles of Hope

1986-2009

hope  
Air

June 2009

23 years 56,000 flights

## 2009 Annual General Meeting



Gerry O'Bonsawin, Doug Keller-Hobson

May 5, 2009 saw a cheerful Hope Air Annual General Meeting as Executive Director Doug Keller-Hobson welcomed Co-Founder Joan Rogers, an ardent supporter of our mission. Doug outlined various stats and accomplishments from 2008, including the Maxwell House TV ad featuring Board member and Volunteer Pilot Gerd Wengler. He also reflected on the sad passing of Peter Nares and Gavin Welbourn, two generous supporters of our charity who are missed.

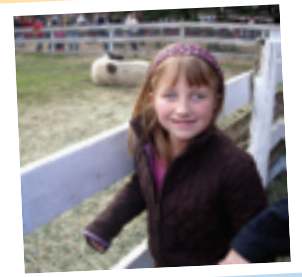


Peter Jennings, Paul Clark, Joan Rogers, Gerd Wengler, Doug Keller-Hobson

Flights Manager Sandrine Levrier kicked off the 10th anniversary celebrations of our VPP program by honouring several pilots in attendance.

*Spirit of Hope* Awards were presented recognizing volunteers who offer so much to Hope Air, including the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year winner: Gerry O'Bonsawin. Paul Clark received the Distinguished Volunteer Pilot of the Year award reflecting his 93 missions over 10 years (representing 434 hours of airtime and 60,000 nautical miles). Chair Wayne Twaits also received recognition for his service over the past 3 years. Assuming the Chair position is Peter Jennings who has volunteered with Hope Air since 2001 and has been a Board member for the last 6 years.

## Makenzie



For 7-year-old Makenzie, battling eye cancer is frightening and expensive since she must travel long distances for treatments.

*I really appreciate the help we've received from Hope Air; every little bit makes a big difference."*

– Makenzie's Mom

**VPP Celebrates 10th Anniversary** The year is 1999. Hope Air enters its 13th year of service (known then as Mission Air) and Billy Lowe, President of the Buttonville Flying Club, perceives an opportunity. "The airlines could only offer so many seats and fly when their schedules allowed. There was a gap." From that perception came the Volunteer Pilot Program. Karen Adams seized on Billy's idea: "We were convinced we could make a difference," she remembers. "But like any new initiative, there were roadblocks we faced: worries about liability, insurance and tracking protocols."

"We were introduced to Angel Flight in the U.S.," Billy recalls. "They walked us through the process which really set our concept aloft." Before long, logistical challenges gave way, a pilot screening process was established and, flash forward to 2009: more than 350 private pilots have volunteered 1,636 flights representing 3,325.6 hours and over 397,882 nautical miles flown! "It seems like only yesterday our idea took flight," muses Karen. "And tomorrow brings new hope for getting more Canadians to getting better," concludes Billy.

## Facts 'n Figures

Jan-May, 2009 **1,081 flights**

Hope Air is generously supported by so many, including:

Photos by Jerry Abramowicz



What are you doing after work?