

# WAI SEA TO SKY CHAPTER

## JAN/FEB 2011 NEWSLETTER

### Snowshoeing at Cypress Mountain



Once again, our “Adventure Specialist” and Membership Chair, Dayna Gamble organized a day in the mountains on Snowshoes. We gathered at the Nordic base on Hollyburn Mountain in Cypress Provincial Park, collected and strapped on our gear and headed for the misted and snowy woods. The trails were well marked and the weather was just right to keep us cool as we hiked up and down and up and down, traversing the mountain “hi-ho, hi-ho style”. We eventually agreed it was time for lunch and headed for Hollyburn Lodge. Opened in 1926, the Lodge was originally built as part of the Nasmyth -Shinglebolt Mill and was transformed into a Ski Camp by Rudolph Jules Verne for



backcountry skiers and winter camping enthusiasts by relocating the buildings via horse-team to its current location on First Lake. With almost 100 years of Nordic history around us, we enjoyed the warmth of the woodstove and humoured and connected with one another with histories of our own. Some new members were with us for this first Event of the year, which was great to see. We will definitely keep this on the list of annual Events. Thanks again to Dayna for taking the lead and giving us a wonderful day!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Quarter Century in Aviation 2
- Aviation Leadership Forum 2
- Upcoming Events 2
- WAI Member Profile 3
- First Solo 3
- Winter Flying in S2S Country 4
- Sea to Sky Contact Info 4

#### Christmas Cookie Exchange



Caroline, Angie, Cindy, Robin, Tanis, Melissa.

On December 19th, 2010 we gathered to enjoy each others company and home baking! A dozen cookies was the admission fee.

It was a very educational social event. Topic discussed: Of course, Aviation! We shared our work-related news and got some insight from one of our members, as to what it would be like working in the UAE.

Huge thanks to Angie Kovats for opening up her home to us!

## The Quarter Century in Aviation Club

Teara Fraser, of Kisik Aerial Survey and founder of the Aviation Leadership Foundation was honored as a guest speaker at a gathering of the Quarter Century in Aviation Club.

The Club was formed in 1952 to provide a venue where people of all areas of aviation could meet old friends and create new ones and share their experiences and stories.

Teara shared her potent and emotional story of overcoming personal tragedy to become both an aviator and a force for change in safety and leadership initiatives. Congratulations Teara.



Teara Fraser with Dave Stafford and Bob Rorison

### Upcoming Chapter Events:

February 22- Aviation Leadership Forum

March- Air Canada SIM Session

April-Spring Clean-up London Heritage Farm

May- Orienteering Hike on the North Shore

June- YVR ACC Tour

July- Chapter Summer BBQ

August- YVR Sunset Tower Tour

September- Mt. Slesse: Hike to Memorial Cairn

October- Halloween Party/Food Bank Fund Raising

## 4th Annual Aviation Leadership Forum: "SAFETY- A Leadership Journey"

February 22nd, 2011.

Leadership defined,

Leadership practiced,

Leadership engaged.



Join the Aviation Leadership Forum for a powerful day of learning in Safety and Leadership. Held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC, this is the brain-child and passion of former Sea to Sky President Teara Fraser and the newly formed, Aviation Leadership Foundation. This year's Forum continues to promote the way to safety excellence through the development of effective, collaborative and sustainable leadership strategies.

The WAI Sea to Sky Chapter is co-hosting the event, open to all personnel in the aviation industry. The event continues to attract and expand into other industries and disciplines

looking for avenues to build effective leadership and safety practices.

Sponsors and participants include the YVR Airport Authority, Air Operators, Transport Canada, CSASI, BC Safety Authority, WorkSafe BC and the Vancouver Board of Trade.

The day-long event will bring together those who are truly inspired to make changes in all their organizations to impact and redefine safety outcomes.

The Agenda will include speakers with a leadership development focus in the morning and a safety focus in the afternoon. Additionally, a new format for discussion is incorporated in the form of a "Leadership Café".

(www.theworldcafe.com). This will be a collaborative learning session, in which cross-department and industry personnel can exchange ideas, practices and problems on a variety of safety and leadership questions.

The Forum is designed to support the new and the seasoned leaders in promoting leadership strategies from within their own organizations and building new capacities in recognizing and empowering their leaders.

To hear what people have been saying about their past Forum experiences and [Register for this year's Forum](#), go to:

[www.aviationleadership.com](http://www.aviationleadership.com)

**And REMEMBER:** WAI Members will receive a 40% discount on the ticket price.

## WAI Member Profile: Claire Lemiski

People always ask me how I became interested in aviation. But I have trouble pinpointing that watershed moment where I decided this was something I wanted to do; it's simply been a passion for as long as I can remember.

I started flight training the summer after grade 8 at a flying club in Ontario. My mum would drive me to the airport since I didn't have a driver's license yet. Throughout high school, homework and jazz-band rehearsals were complemented by milestones including my first solo, recreational permit, and private license.

When I started considering post-secondary education, I discovered a liberal arts university in the Lower Mainland with an aviation program. It was a great school for me because in addition to earning my commercial license and multi-IFR ratings, I was able to complete a major in geography and take a variety of electives ranging from music to history to physics.

In the summers I did things like dispatch, work on the ramp and fly skydivers. Whether in the air or on the ground, I was just content to be around airplanes, learning as much as I could and getting the big picture about operations from various perspectives. It was nearing the end of the summer just before my 4<sup>th</sup> year of university, when I got a job as a summer student at

Bombardier Aerospace. My main responsibilities included organizing the flight test library and archives. I didn't know it at the time, but this opened another door and basically served as a three-week-long interview.

The next February, when I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do and where I wanted to go after graduation, I received an email from my manager at Bombardier. It said something to the effect of "we may have an opportunity for you, are you interested?" Intrigued, I asked for more details and she told me about Bombardier's Graduate Development Program (GDP). She said "we want you to learn everything you can about the Dash-8 in a year." That August, I started training in the Q Series Flight Test Engineering department. Over the next several months, I also completed rotations in electrical, avionics, and hydro-mechanical systems.

I didn't really know a whole lot about flight-testing when I started working at Bombardier. It was a whole other realm of aviation, but I quickly realized that I loved it. Now, I am involved with the planning, preparation, and execution of flight tests for new parts, development projects, and engineering investigations on the Dash-8 Q400. Propellers, landing gear, navigation, stall warning, smoke detection, cabin pressure – you name it – each day



Claire in the Dash 8 Q400

brings a new challenge.

Flight-testing is both an art and a science: it involves careful planning, technical precision, and thinking outside the box. So, every time I don my bright blue coveralls, I consider what a privilege it is to work with phenomenal colleagues who are enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge and wisdom with me. I am also proud to work for a Canadian manufacturer that sends its aircraft all around the world: whether you're in England or Germany or Ethiopia or Japan or Australia, there's a chance you'll see a Dash-8. Not unlike my first year as a flight test engineer, these few short paragraphs are only the tip of the iceberg. But if this year has been any indication of what is to come, I eagerly anticipate the opportunities and challenges ahead!



## Joanna Peto: First SOLO and Big Dreams

On November 3, 2010, Joanna Peto completed her first solo flight while training at the Pacific Flying Club at the Boundary Bay Airport (CZBB).

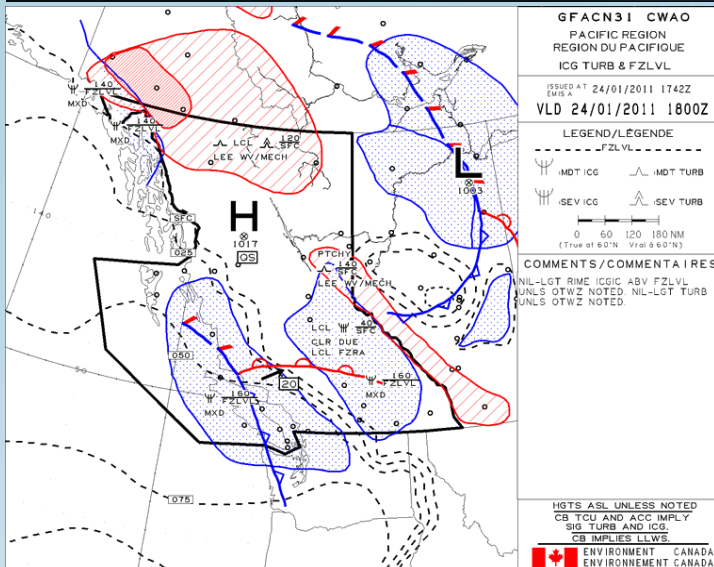
Joanna's goals include inspiring young women to follow their dreams and, one day helping inner-city Youth discover flying.

Congratulations Joanna!

Who will be your first passenger?



# Decision Making and Winter Flying in Sea to Sky Country



It's time to brush up on my IFR scan (flying on the dials to minimums when I don't need to) and make ready the Long Johns and Exit Plans, knowing it's only a matter of time before the sky will turn and the choices become few.

By mid-November, my morning coffee is accompanied by daily forecasts of low visibility, and severe icing SIGMETs (Significant Meteorological Conditions), as Freezing Rain (FZRA) becomes a constant reminder of just who's side Mother Nature is on.

We're in the heart of it now, when the "Pacific Low Factory" straddles the 49th Parallel in a 100 mile wide swathe bringing a steady supply of moisture and high winds, only to be held at bay by mixing with the Continental Arctic outflow winds and all the Clear Ice that goes with it.

As January closes in on February, our vigilant and intelligent winter-flying decision making should be well-developed. As a Captain, my job is always to maintain my professionalism and exercise operational caution to keep passengers, crew, cargo and aircraft safe. Being proactive with quickly changing weather systems, taking a delay or cancelling flights, these are my best ground-based options. Once I'm in the air, I should already have a plan for getting back on the ground safely.

This is what we teach our new pilots, this is what veteran pilots brush their teeth with: Decision-Making.... And Winter Flying classes start in August!

Discipline to be prepared, Professionalism to ask questions, and Leadership to make the call; there is no better time of the year to develop these skills. I wish you all safe flying.  
*Megan Goddard (Captain Beechcraft 1900)*

We live on the edge, where the occasionally perfect, blue-starched, marshmallow-mountain winter sky surrenders itself to the calm, liquid-grey of the western horizon.

Those that live in the eastern Maritimes refer to their land as "Gods Country". At this time of year on our coast, it's a stretch to come up with two days in a row that would warrant such praising adjectives. True, we are blessed with spectacular mountain ranges, slotted in parallel from Vancouver Island to the Alberta border. This world-class scenery is also what makes BC a magnificent host to some of the most treacherous winter flying conditions on the planet.

The other truth is, sometime near the end of August, I get this uneasy feeling. It happens every year. I can hear a little voice say, "The Party's Over". And it is time to make ready for the September fog and the November wind and ice, like it or not.

## November 2010 Scholarship Notes:

Are available on our website. Click on Scholarship Session Notes on <http://www.womeninaviation.ca/events-and-meetings.html>

## WAI S2S

*Our mission is to promote the passion and potential of Women in Aviation through advocacy, education and advancement.*

*We are a community unlike any other, connected by our sense of wonder, spirit and determination to make our dreams take flight.*

**Join us and stay in touch at:**

[www.womeninaviation.ca](http://www.womeninaviation.ca)

[info@womeninaviation.ca](mailto:info@womeninaviation.ca)



Chapter President Caroline Kolasa is living the life of a true northern pilot. She is currently working in Edmonton, flying a King Air and commuting back to her Steveston home every 2 weeks. Here she is out with the locals for a sleigh ride!