

Richmond, April 27, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council,

I wonder how many people fly remote controlled planes in Richmond parks. Does Council know that number? I know that there are not many, the parks are usually empty. In all the years that I've been flying remote controlled planes I have not ever met another hobbyist at a Richmond park and the people I have met at the parks have enjoyed watching the planes and been interested in learning about the hobby.

I was told that this initiative of having designated areas to fly remote controlled planes comes after public concern and complaints from neighbours of the parks. I am curious how many people have been injured or killed by a remote controlled plane in Richmond. If we want to talk about public concerns, what is Council going to do about the 140 ton plus planes that fly over top of my house every day and night with loud noise? What if one of these planes falls out of the sky before making it to the airport? I bet it would be much more dramatic than a ball or a remote controlled plane going over a fence into a resident's backyard? Has a window ever been ever broken by a stray ball from lively ball game? Are these things dangerous to Richmond residents?

I had the opportunity on Saturday to meet with the Richmond RC Flying Club that gathers at Manoah Steves Park. A bunch of nice, respectful guys that enjoy building, flying and socializing around RC planes. On a good day, 6 pilots gathered at the park to fly their foamies. These guys have rules, all of them based on

common sense! They have applied to have this park designated for flying remote controlled planes. I'm all for it.

In North Vancouver there is a park that people can use during designated times to practise and enjoy the hobby, and the pilots are organized! Can't we do this in Richmond too?

I am totally in favour of having organized and designated areas in parks to fly remote controlled planes, with accountable bodies to warrant the safety and good manners at all times. In the years flying at the parks I have always yielded the park to other activities. Me and my kids feel that way.

Changes in product technology is big now, controls are second to none, no interference resulting on a loss of the plane like years ago. Now we can fly more than 30 people at the same time without any control interference. Planes are much lighter, made out of foam and use small quiet electric engines to propel them.

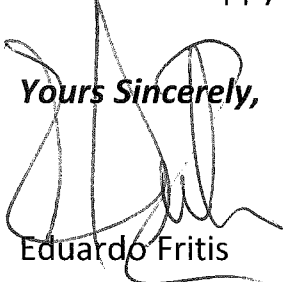
This hobby is moving into the future. Just like 20 years ago nobody imagined that everybody would carry a cell phone/computer in their pocket. Remote controlled planes are also propelling us into the future. For example, in New Brunswick there is a high school that has launched a pilot course in drone flying. In Toronto, the city is debating giving permits for flying drones. And in Europe there are a thousand commercial companies operating drones for doing things like delivering mail, delivering packages, aerial photography and precision agriculture among others. Today's forecast is that 10% of commercial aviation by 2025 is going to be remote controlled.

There is a designated area to fly at Rice Mill Road, although, in this location, you see people flying loud gas powered planes from 1952 that are governed by lines. This is not suitable for radio controlled airplanes and since Council has shown interest on this subject I would like to request the City to build a suitable runway

for us to play with our toys. Other cities here in Canada, the US, Mexico etc build runways for remote controlled planes.

I would be happy to participate and contribute to this discussion and initiative.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Fritis', written over the printed name.

Eduardo Fritis

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Attachments:

Drones 101: High schoolers Piloting UAV's to new heights

City Hall: Toronto councillors eye permits for drone use

Welcome to NVRFCF: North Vancouver Remote Controlled Flying Club

Drones will deliver mail in Switzerland this summer.

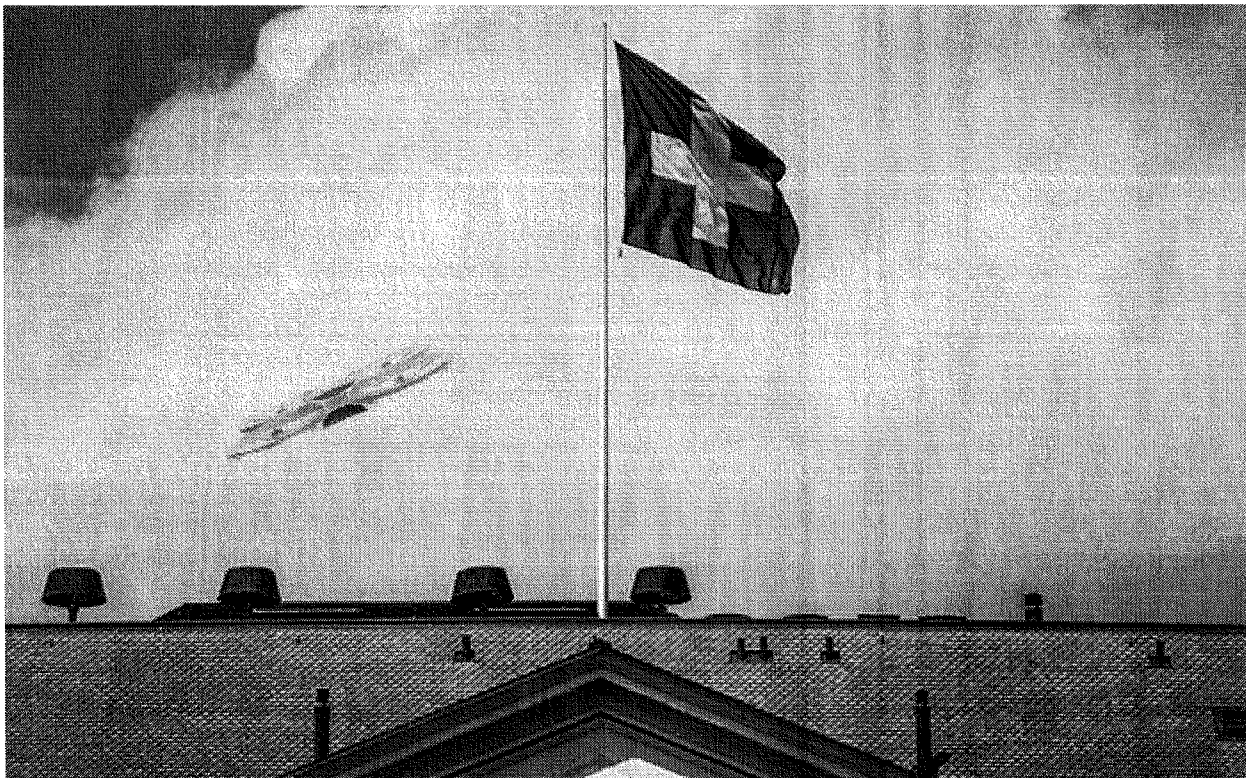
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Drones will deliver mail in Switzerland this summer



by Mariella Moon | @mariella_moon | April 24th 2015 at 7:23 am

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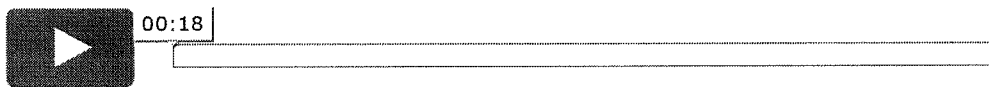


You know which organization doesn't want to fall behind Amazon, DHL and Alibaba when it comes to drone deliveries? The Swiss Post. Yes, Switzerland's postal service wants to deliver small packages using small drones. In fact, it will start using quadcopters developed by a company called Matternet to drop off its customers' parcels during a pilot program this summer. Matternet ONE can carry anything up to 2.2 pounds for over 12 miles on a single charge, and the Post will put it to the test delivering small things like medicine or documents.

regal framework, consider local conditions and explore the technical and business capabilities of the drones." Matternet isn't a new player by any means -- it's already used its drones to deliver meds in Haiti -- so the Swiss Post chose a great partner for the project. "Our product is vertically integrated into a complete transportation solution. Swiss Post comes to us, we supply them all the technology (drones, landing pads, batteries, charging stations, cloud software) and they just focus on operations," one of its founders, Andreas Raptopoulos, told *TechCrunch*. If this first run is successful, the postal service hopes to go through two more rounds of pilot testing to determine how viable delivery drones truly are.

Matternet in Haiti

from **Matternet** PRO



VIA: TechCrunch

SOURCE: Matternet

TAGS: deliverydrone, drone, matternet, matternetone, quadcopter, switzerland

HIDE COMMENTS

8 COMMENTS

Drones 101: High schoolers piloting UAVs to new heights

Josh Elliott, CTVNews.ca

Published Friday, April 17, 2015 9:16AM EDT

A New Brunswick high school has launched a pilot course in drone flight, in what may be the first class of its kind in Canada.

Teacher Benjamin Kelly helped the program get off the ground by pitching it to his school board last summer. Kelly says he was inspired to add drones to the curriculum after he learned how useful they were in ending last summer's armed shooter situation in Moncton, N.B.

"I was just interested with the story of a drone pilot who wanted to help out," Kelly told CTV Atlantic.

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Now his students at Caledonia Regional High School in Hillsborough, N.B., are getting a crash course in how to fly the next-generation aircraft.

"It's nothing we've really experienced before," student Carrie Lafford said.

Student Alyson Furness said the class will probably come in handy in the future, when drone use becomes more widespread. "I might be using a drone to go get pictures of scenery, or for medical use in the woods if someone's lost," Furness said.

Drone instructor Marc LeBlanc says he anticipates other schools will launch their own drone courses as the technology becomes more widespread.

"I hope that other schools get on board and start their own 'droneography' course," LeBlanc said. "The possibilities are endless."

Kelly obtained the three drones for the course through a corporate grant to the school.

But he said the whole thing would not have been possible if not for the support of the school board.

"Because you initiate something and because you're willing to show that you're serious about a program, the district is really good with supporting those programs," he said.

Kelly says he believes his course is the first of its kind in the country for high-school students. That means there's a lot of pressure on him not to crash and burn, he said.

"If we are the first program in Canada, we don't want to mess up," he said.

With files from CTV Atlantic

PHOTOS



A drone-mounted camera offers a birds-eye view of students at Caledonia Regional High School in Hillsborough, N.B. on Apr. 16, 2015.



Teacher Benjamin Kelly shows students Alyson Furness (middle) and Carrie Lafford (right) how to fly a drone at Caledonia Regional High School in Hillsborough, N.B., on Apr. 16.



Students watch a drone in flight at Caledonia Regional High School in Hillsborough, N.B., on Apr. 16, 2015.

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The bottom line is that schools can't and shouldn't teach every single thing just because it's the current technological fad. Technology is always changing, but basic education needs to remain consistent. Instead of pandering to the idea that students need to be bribed into education by adding every flavour of the month, how about just focusing on teaching them the basics in an engaging way? Spelling is no longer required to be tested, children aren't drilled in the times tables for math and cursive writing is falling by the wayside. On the other hand, children in fourth and fifth grade are learning about aerodynamics. How does that make any sense? I understand the need to keep education competitive but sacrificing something as simple as how to

spell "definitely" or when to capitalize a word means we are forgetting to develop the most important computer which is our own brain.

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1



Salal

5 days ago

I do hope they teach them to stay away from airplane fly zones.

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Marc LeBlanc

5 days ago

The great thing is that UAV's are a tool to get students engaged. Drones can cover almost every subject...math, social studies, chemistry, biology etc...so, by using this in the tech class, we can also teach other subjects and therefore enhance the learning experience. Students learn how to do the math to cover area using UAV, they learn the chemistry involved in flight, the physics, the biology when overlooking a nature habitat and the list goes on. Most of all, it gets the children outside and gives them the chance to use teamwork and bond with fellow students and teachers. To follow up, the class in mainly grade 12 students.

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xenawarriordog

6 days ago

Better check with Transport Canada reg's. They are trying to kill the hobby. This fellow is required to have a Special Flight Operations Certificate. Not fly it within 150 m of a building, structure, person, animal, roadway. Or within 9 km of a airport, 8 km of a forest fire. Judging by the photo's posted he is in clear violation of the law..... better look out!. The legislation can not keep up with the technology. They just released the Phantom 3 within the last couple of weeks which flies indoors!! I would like to see how they regulate that?

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Marc LeBlanc

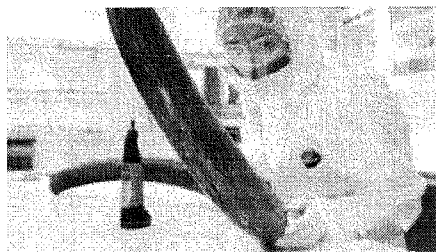
5 days ago

Great point xena! I am truly a supporter of the Transport Canada regulations and that is part of the "dronography" course. Of course, the fine print is there, 7 of 8 UAV's these student fly fall under the 2kg exemption and I have a blanket SFOC granted by Transport Canada...so everything was done according to regs. We know they are watching, as they should! :)

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1

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Toronto councillors eye permits for drone use

Drone user's plea that Torontonians have no right to privacy in public fails to stop them from studying regulations.

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KEITH BEATY / TORONTO STAR Order this photo

Toronto is looking at regulating the use of unmanned aerial vehicles or drones within the city. The city's executive committee is asking staff to study the issue and report back.

By: David Rider City Hall Bureau Chief, Published on Wed Apr 22 2015

City councillors want to explore the idea of forcing aerial drone operators to get permits and comply with restrictions on flying them over outdoor city spaces including playgrounds.



Open policard for Mayor John Tory

Mayor John Tory (open John Tory's policard)'s executive committee unanimously approved Councillor James Pasternak (open James Pasternak's policard)'s motion asking city staff to report back on a "strategy governing the use of drones in the City of Toronto's outdoor spaces."

The rules could apply to residents with increasingly popular recreational drones now exempt from many Transport Canada restrictions on larger commercial drones used for film production and other tasks.

City staff are to report back on a strategy to include, but not be limited to:

- Any current policies that can be leveraged to ensure the safety of Toronto's airspace.
- Any safety concerns or potential liability issues the City could face due to the use of drones on City of Toronto property.
- Investigating the need for possible restrictions on the use of drones and photography above outdoor recreation and park facilities;

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Matt Elliott

@GraphicMatt

29m

Finch West LRT and Sheppard East LRT are mentioned in the Ontario budget. Finch LRT procurement expected this year.
pic.twitter.com/IGuKT65cRy

Retweeted by Edward Keenan

The Finch West and Sheppard East LRT projects, which will provide reliable and improved transit service on these busy corridors. The Finch West LRT will run along Finch Avenue between Humber College and Keele Street, and the Sheppard East LRT will run along Sheppard Avenue from Don Mills Station to Morningside Avenue. The procurement process for the Finch West LRT project is expected to begin later in 2015.

Expand



Rebecca Cuneo Keenan

@rebeccakeenan

28m

My 6yo wants to trade me in for a mom who bakes. So if your kid wants a mom who reads the New Yorker, get in touch.

Retweeted by Edward Keenan

Expand



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@Longreads

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- The potential to permit the use of drones in designated spaces.
- Restrictions on the types and/or models of drones that can be operated in the City of Toronto.

In a letter, Pasternak noted incidents which a drone crashed on to the White House Lawn and another near Pearson International Airport forced a pilot to change its landing path.

In an interview, Pasternak said city governments have to get ahead of the rapidly changing technology, especially the camera capabilities.

"We're not necessarily asking for permits or hyper-regulation — we're asking for some kind of framework in which we can monitor the growth and use of it," he said. "There's safety issues, there's personal privacy issues..."

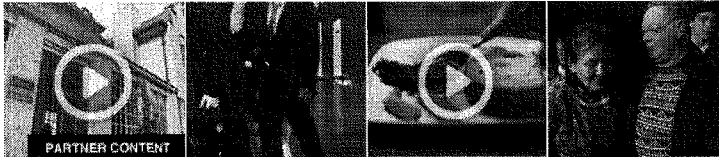
Miroslav Glavić told executive committee that he has used his recreational drone to make videos at the Scarborough Bluffs. The city has no business trying to regulate the devices, he said.

"When you are in public, you have no right to privacy," Glavić said, adding that using a drone with a camera in public is no different than holding up a smartphone and snapping a photo in Yonge-Dundas Square.

Transport Canada already restricts the use of drones near airports, military facilities and other sensitive sites, he added.

Executive committee passed the motion without any discussion.

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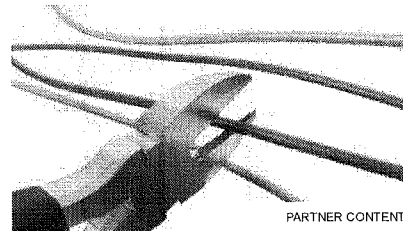
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April 23, 2015

Welcome to the NVRCFC

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Welcome!

- Please visit the [Newsletters](#) page for general information on the Annual General Meetings.
- The NVRCFC membership form can be found on the [Membership](#) page.
- The [MAAC membership form](#) can be found on the [MAAC website](#) listed on the [Links](#) page.

Keep visiting us for future events and club socials!

[Check the North Vancouver weather forecast](#)

News

updated January 10, 2015

Thank-you Chris Straub for all your hard work over the past number of years!

Welcome Kent Wiebe to your new position as President of the flying club!

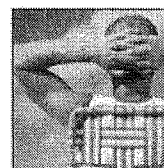
Welcome Valdy Chrobok to your new position as Membership Secretary of the flying club!

Current members - Please make sure you renew your memberships for 2015.

Please respect our neighbours and keep your flights within our flying boundary. Do not fly across the creek at any time. And please do a sound check.

Speaking of rules, we have very few at our club but we do have a page on the web site where these are written down.

Vision



Keeping the location and contributing to the recreational activities available to the North Shore community.

Mission



To operate a safe and fun rc flying club.

Please new and old members alike, go to our [rules page](#) and review these rules. A few of these rules that I see all of us contravening from time to time are:

- stand at the flight line while flying (many people stand behind the flight line or way off to the side)
- fly in front of the flight line
- only 4 aircraft are allowed to be flying at any time, two of which may be nitro or gas (when a nitro or gas plane is being started in the pits it is considered to be a flying aircraft, according to DNV noise rules)
- carry your plane from the pits to the flight line

Our club has grown substantially in the last 2 years and these safety rules are becoming more important as there are more people showing up to the field than ever before. Please use common sense and try to be safe.