



Newsletter

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INVESTIGATION

UXBRIDGE - Anatomy of a "UFO"

by Drew Williamson

It was almost too good to be true. A case which every UFO investigator hopes to come across at least once in a lifetime of investigations. While having his camera set up outside and on a tripod with a telephoto lens, pointed in the right direction no less, David Caskie was in the right place at the right time.

While venturing inside for a moment he noticed through a window an intense orange glow to the north of his parents house. He was taking photos of the glow from the town in the distance when an orb of light appeared in the night sky. He called for his mother to come and witness this awesome sight. After observing it for a few seconds he remembered his camera and dashed outside to try and photograph it. He managed to take three frames, one of which captured the object and is shown above right in black and white.

David had said the object seemed quite large however, even with the medium sized telephoto lens the image recorded on the film was very small. The reproduction shown here would have an approximate magnification of 35 x if not more.

It was Tuesday, June 2, 1992, 12:40 a.m. according to the witness report filled out by David.



Photo by David Caskie

This date would prove to only increase the mystery around the UFO's seen in and around the Lake Scugog as we shall see later on.

There was a problem in my mind about the time of the sighting as this information had come to me second hand and I wanted to query the Caskies about this in person. It was unclear to me if they had seen the object on Tuesday morning at 12:40, or if they meant they were up on Tuesday night and saw the object early Wednesday morning.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

by Victor Lourenco

In order to publish Chris Rutkowski's report on the **1993 Canadian UFO Survey** the present issue had to be expanded to 20 pages.

I would like to encourage our readers to submit articles for publication. Text should be in computer format by preference.

Word, WordPerfect for Windows, MS-DOS, MAC or Amiga, ASCII, Text, etc., etc. Modem transfer is also available.

If typed: **Original sheet (no Xerox) and one line spaced** to facilitate the scanning process.

Brian Bower (Brantford) has been appointed to the position of **Field Investigator** after a successful Field Investigators Exam.

Reminders - Exam sheets are available to MUFON Field Investigator Trainees and can be obtained through the Provincial Director.

MUFON Ontario needs to increase the number of Field Investigators and Provincial Section Directors. Particular attention is being given to the following areas: Ottawa, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Burlington and Brantford.

Summary of UFO and Abduction reports since May 94.

Month	Location	Type	Cases
July 94	Toronto	NL	2
July 94	Mississauga	ABDT	1
June 94	Toronto	NL	2
June 94	Mississauga	NL	2
June 94	Toronto	ABDT	1
June 94	Mississauga	ABDT	2

Most of these cases are still under investigation.

NL - Nocturnal Light
ABDT - Abduction

*Victor Lourenco-Ontario Prov. Director
(905) 569-0032*

*Tom Theofanous-Ontario Assist. Prov. Director
(416) 249-0933*

*Drew Williamson-Toronto Section Director
(416) 532-9371*

*Dorothy Lewis-Sarnia Section Director
(519) 344-8248*

*Michel Deschamps-Sudbury Section Director
(705) 969-3389*

Address all correspondence to :

**Victor Lourenco
3058 Fifth Line W. # 7
Mississauga, Ontario L5L 5W4
Canada**

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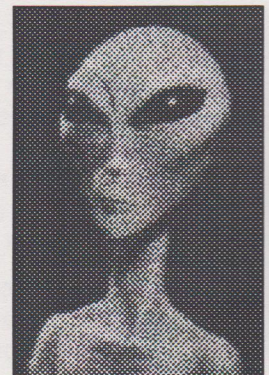
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NEXT ISSUE:

**Abduction reports in
Ontario**



Uxbridge - Continued from page 1

Not more than a day had passed when another call was received by another witness who lived 10 kilometers to the east of Mr. Caskie.

In fact there were four witnesses. This group, the Colby family, had witnessed a similar phenomenon however it was on the following night. It was noticed when someone in the house had gone into the kitchen and looking out the north-facing window saw a brilliant glow in the sky.

The others in the house were quickly called in to look at it, binoculars were readily acquired and they went outside to get an unobstructed view. An interesting note here is that the two women observed different qualities and structure than the two men.

The two women had reported seeing a cellular structure similar to a honeycomb at the centre of the light whereas the men did not. One of the men reported seeing a long curving tail descending from the object. The next day at work Mrs. Colby asked her secretary to find someone to report this to and that's when we found our second group of witnesses.

Such a spectacular event must have been seen by others on the various highways and elsewhere. It was evident to us that we needed to find these witnesses as quickly as possible, but how to do this? It was suggested we place an ad in the papers.

I suggested that we contact the local community papers with a story I was sure they couldn't resist. The media, for what ever reason, loves UFO stories. The advantage of this was wide coverage, and, it was free! We first contacted the Scugog Citizen who were, albeit amused, very receptive to the idea. A meeting was arranged with the staff.

The facts of the case to that point, were relayed and in addition our names and phone numbers were included so that any witnesses could contact us directly. The Uxbridge Times-Journal was also contacted and with much the same bemused interest agreed to print the story. On June 23 the article appeared on the front page of the Scugog Citizen in bold type; **UFOs in Scugog?** The Uxbridge Times-Journal article came out the following day also on the front page but in less sensational style.

On the day the first article hit the news boxes the calls started coming in. One of these



calls was from a man in Manila, a town north of Lake Scugog, who had videotaped the event! This case was becoming too good to be true. Another trip to the Uxbridge area was scheduled with a VCR in tow to make a copy of the 8 mm videotape.

The light was first noticed by his daughter who called it to her fathers attention. Grabbing his camcorder he ran outside to tape it. With the camera on auto focus the light moved in and out of focus as it descended and the camera focused on the nearby trees.

Birds could clearly be heard on the tape chirping as they do when the sun first comes up, a very strange experience let me tell you, for that time of the night. There was no sound that could have been associated with the object however. He had also taped an airplane and helicopter flying over shortly after and these were very easily distinguished as being such.

He also told us of others including a relation who had seen it while working at a gravel pit not too far from his house. By the time the calls stopped coming in we had no less than three videotapes from three different locations, a colour photo, and at least thirty witness-locations involving more than sixty witnesses.

A problem had arisen in that all the witnesses had reported seeing the orbs on the same night that the Caskies had. However as mentioned earlier it was unclear to me exactly what night this had occurred on.

When asked about the time of the event, David Caskie maintained that it was on June 2. I asked him if this meant he was taking his photos on the night of June 1, then after midnight, (12:40 am), he saw the object. At this point he seemed confused and was thinking about this when his mother who was nearby proclaimed that no, it was the night of June 2 the event happened. I then asked if this meant it was 12:40 am June 3 that the event took place and then they both agreed with this. This left us with the Colbys who defiantly maintained that their sighting took place at about the same time but 24 hours earlier. We now had possibly two distinct events occurring.

From all the calls that came in they were unanimously agreed that the time was 12:40 am June 3, the Colbys were the only ones in disagreement.

Calls were now coming in with a possible explanation for the strange lights in the sky. One gentleman was speaking to his son's teacher who lived in Beaverton on the shore of Lake Simcoe.

She had told him that there was a search and rescue operation over Lake Simcoe on the night in question and had heard and seen the planes dropping parachute flares. This provided another avenue to check and soon I was on the phone to CFB Trenton where all search and rescue missions are launched from. I spoke with a Sgt. Goudreau who told me that there had indeed been a request by the Orillia OPP to conduct a search over Lake Simcoe at the same time as David Caskie and others were observing the bright lights. This was also borne out by our analysis using lines of sight from the many witnesses we had questioned to this point.

Another call to the Orillia detachment of the OPP put me in touch with Sgt. Bill Rands who confirmed their request for a search over Lake Simcoe at the date and time specified. What had happened was as follows;

two people had overturned their boat in the middle of Lake Simcoe, another boat arrives, picks them up and takes them to shore where they head home without notifying the police. Another boat passes the overturned craft and sees a life vest floating in close proximity, and reports this to the OPP. By

this time it is starting to get dark and the OPP call Trenton to request a search. Sgt. Rands also conveyed to me his ire for these people causing an unneeded search and rescue mission which cost the taxpayers the tidy sum of \$25,000! Sgt. Goudreau had told me that the flares they use for this type of operation are 6 inches in diameter, 3 feet long, dropped with parachutes and emit a 2 million candle-power light source, a very bright light indeed.

Another witness had told us he had listened to the rescue mission on his scanner further confirming this scenario.

It seemed that we had found our UFO just in time for a mid-day radio talk show we were invited to be guests on with David Caskie. Minutes before air time he would find out what he had really seen and the host of the show seemed rather disappointed about our find.

So what of the Colbys you Ask? Shortly after our visit with them Mrs. Colby had asked her secretary to check her memos to look for the date that she had requested her to find someone to report it to. The date,....June 3. They had seen the same flares!

There are a number of lessons to be learned from this investigation one is the interchange of "last night" and "early this morning" in most people's minds. This is seen in David Caskies claim that the event took place on Tuesday night at 12:40 when in fact he meant Wednesday morning. The time factor probably was in part responsible for the Colby's confusion as well.

Be sure when you are investigating a case that occurs at "12:15 on the night of...." that the person does not really mean 12:15 on the morning of ..."

David had described the light as being quite large, indeed his MUFON report describes it as smaller than a basketball in real size, and 10 times larger than (given the choice here of a star or full moon he checked neither). He also stated that the object was at a distance of 4-5 miles. How does one see an object smaller than a basket ball at this distance and still say it was quite large?

What was not known at the time we got the negatives and would not find out until the face to face interview, was that the photo was a time exposure. So what you see here is actually the flare moving across the camera's line of sight.



Across the Great White North

by Michael Strainic

MUFON's Canadian National Director

Willkommen, Bienvenue, and Welcome to the first in what I hope will be a regular (or at least semi-regular) column in the MUFON Ontario Newsletter.

Just in case you are wondering who I am and why I might be offered this space, let me explain. My name is Michael Strainic, and I am MUFON's Canadian National Director.

The Big MUFON Cheese of Canada, or le Grand Fromage Canadien de MUFON, if you prefer. At any rate, that's who and what I am, and it's my job to coordinate all the MUFON operations across Canada. Not an easy task, for both obvious and not-so-obvious reasons, but it's one I accepted because

- a) it needed doing, and
- b) because I believe very strongly in what we are ALL doing ufologically here in Canada.

One of the best examples of what we are doing here in the Great White North is this very Newsletter you are reading right now. Victor Lourenco, my friend and colleague, along with his MUFON Ontario crew, have put together what was from its very inception a first-class publication, and one which has already -- in the span of two short issues -- garnered kudos, acclaim, and rave reviews from all across the U.S. and Canada.

Congratulations, Victor, Tom, Drew, Michel, Dorothy, and all the other people involved; ya done good, and I expect we'll all be here for at least 500 more issues!

One request I receive frequently from MUFON CANADA officers and members is to

please keep the national membership apprised of current UFO events in Canada. Well, that is one of the main things this column is intended to do. In addition, it will be a pot pourri of ufological anecdotes, information, research suggestions, helpful hints, and anything else which may be of interest to the readers, so your feedback is especially welcome!

British Columbia, or more specifically, Vancouver and the surrounding area, has just experienced an amazing rash of UFO encounters, unlike anything here before. Although the total number of reports were relatively few -- roughly a dozen -- they were all extremely high-quality Close Encounter cases which occurred within a time frame of less than three weeks. These cases are all still under investigation, and most have become ongoing case studies because of the associated effects of the encounters. We've had multiple-witness daylight cases, videotapes, physical effects, ground traces, electrical anomalies, probable abductions, entity encounters, and more. These cases will be dealt with in more detail in the future, but the activity level and quality was sufficient to grab the attention of the producers of the TV show Encounters.

After countless telephone calls, pre-production negotiations, and the requisite number of last-minute changes, we spent a grueling three days with the delightful Andrea Matzke and her production crew here in Vancouver (a.k.a. "Hollywood North" and the filmic home of everyone's favourite TV show, The X-Files). Filming took place from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM all three days. And if that weren't enough, the Big Boys in Hollywood later decided they needed more footage, so they flew a reporter up for additional filming, and we did it yet again for another full day a week later.

Television works in mysterious ways, and one of the most mysterious is the fact that Encounters left Vancouver with nine-and-one-half hours of film, and then decided it was just not enough. With their return visit and additional filming, the total is now well over eleven hours of film. All of this was deemed necessary for a television segment slated to run for approximately eight minutes! Some of the footage which was shot -- such as a lengthy interview with an abductee -- was truly incredible, yet it will be hacked into tiny sound bites in the editing process and will never be seen in its entirety.

Continued on page 9

BOOKS



Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens by John Mack, M.D.

432 pages. Charles
Scribner's Sons, \$22
(Hardcover).

Review by David Gotlib, M.D.

Abduction will probably be a delight for true believers, but has little to convince critical readers, let alone skeptics, of the author's thesis. Dr. Mack dismisses, or at best addresses in an unconvincing manner, issues at the core of why the general public and mental health professionals fail to take abductions and abduction research (let alone treatment) seriously. This is a great disappointment for those of us who *believed Mack had* the stature and *credentials* to bring abduction studies into the mainstream: He is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School's Cambridge Hospital, won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of T.E. Lawrence, helped to found the Center for Psychology and Social Change, and has written over 150 articles and books on a variety of topics.

There are two central flaws in the book. First, while the majority of the abduction accounts are obtained through hypnosis, there is no substantial discussion of the reliability of such "recovered" memories. Mack dismisses the question as if it is irrelevant, saying that criticisms of hypnotic recall are based on laboratory studies outside of a real-world context, and are not applicable to traumatic memories. He cites for support only the observation of Daniel Brown, an expert in hypnosis, that "after carefully reviewing the literature on recall among trauma sufferers under hypnosis there are simply no studies of the accuracy of memory in this population, i.e. among individual for whom the events in question are of core meaning or central importance."

"No studies" simply means no evidence—one way or the other. In fact, the consensus in the scientific literature is that there is no objectively reliable method of distinguishing a real memory from a confabulation, without objective corroborating evidence (like a photograph or videotape) [Yapko, 1994]. The literature on clinical hypnosis is particularly clear that "affective appropriateness and a narrative consistent with how abductions generally proceed," Mack's criteria for believing recovered memories of abductions (p. 24), are not reliable indicators of the accuracy of memories.

There is a wide consensus about this in the scientific literature, which sees understanding the complexities of memory, how it may be contaminated and altered, and how to determine that a memory is accurate, as the new frontier for the healing arts. The author's failure to recognize this issue and argue his point, and not the "material and philosophical vested interests attached to the Western worldview," or the "total separation of the spirit and the physical world" in Western culture, is at the core of the criticism he has received, and practically guarantees that scientists and clinicians would dismiss the book.

Mack does not appear concerned that the memories of his subjects may have been influenced or contaminated—consciously or unconsciously—by material they have read by himself, or his assistants or support group:

I cannot avoid the fact that a co-creative intuitive process such as this may yield information that is in some sense the product of the intermingling or flowing together of the consciousness of the two (or more) people in the room. Something may be brought forth that was not there before in exactly the same form. Stated differently, the information gained in the sessions is not simply a remembered "item, lifted out of the experiencer's consciousness like a stone from a kidney. It may represent instead a developed or evolved perception, enriched by the connection that the experiencer and the investigator have made.

From a Western perspective this might be called "distortion"; from a transpersonal point of view the experiencer and I may be participating in an evolution of consciousness. (p. 391)

Such "co-creation" of information may have therapeutic value or facilitate personal growth for Mack's clients, but, whether called "distortion" or "evolution of consciousness," it makes it impossible to rely on the historical accuracy of their memories. Rather than attempt to minimize such influence (a move which would have strengthened is argument), Mack appears to embrace and invite it.

The second major flaw in Abduction is that Mack takes the abduction scenario developed by Budd Hopkins and David Jacobs as *axiomatic*, despite the fact that neither the accuracy of their methods nor their findings are widely agreed upon even within Ufology, let alone in mainstream science. This is doubly curious, because Mack does not subscribe to Hopkins' and Jacobs' conclusion that abductions are happening 100% in physical reality.

Other weaknesses in Abduction deserve comment. Mack says he interviewed 76 abductees. He presents case studies of 13, and makes only the most general statements about the entire group. Unanswered questions about methodology make it difficult for a careful reader to evaluate this work : Where did he find his subjects? How did he decide whom to interview? How many of those he decided to interview turned out to be abductees, and how many did not?

And Mack has done psychological profiles on only four, one of whom was ill enough to be hospitalized. The reason he gives for this is "the administration of a full battery of psychometric tests is time-consuming and expensive." Apparently he did not think readers would feel such objective evidence would be of value, let alone necessary.

We are left to trust his impressions about personality characteristics and family relationships of his subjects.

The absence of such evidence is particularly disturbing because he misrepresents some of the studies which deal with this question. On page 17 he says, "The effort to discover a personality type associated with abductions has also not been successful." Yet one of the papers he cites to support this statement, the 1991 study by Rodeghier, Goodpaster and Blatterbauer, provides some evidence to the contrary. Here is a portion of the abstract from this paper, with italics added:

"...data from the ICMI and CIS questionnaires suggest that the respondents cannot be characterized as fantasy-prone personalities or as especially hypnotically responsive. MMPI

results suggest that the sample as a whole suffers from no overt pathologies. *However, a cluster analysis of the primary MMPI scales reveals two well-defined groups of abductees, clusters I and II. Cluster II has more elevated scores on most MMPI primary scales and significantly higher scores in the Keane PTSD subscale. This group also has significantly higher fantasy-prone scores. Cluster II respondents report more loneliness as adults, lower levels of happiness throughout their life, more problems sleeping, and a greater incidence of sexual abuse as children.*"

The authors went on to say that while they had demonstrated that abductees are not a random grouping from the general population, one could say little more without further study. They did not conclude that they had disproved the existence of a personality type associated with abductions. The authors called for "more detailed ...clinical assessments" of abductees. If Mack cannot provide such studies, who can?

Later in the same paragraph Mack states " ... Psychologist Kenneth Ring has posited the notion of an encounter-prone personality, a tendency of an individual who has been affected by unusual experiences to be more open to them in the future." Here is Ring's own description of his encounter-prone personality hypothesis from The Omega Project (italics added):

"we have as a prototype an individual who, *coming from a history of childhood abuse and trauma*, has developed dissociative tendencies as well as a capacity to become deeply absorbed in alternate realities needed, we can assume that such an individual, by virtue of this kind of psychological conditioning, is well accustomed to such unusual states of consciousness since he has often had recourse to enter them."

Mack misleads the reader, and does Ken Ring a disservice, by eliminating the reference to a history of child abuse and trauma as predisposing an individual to unusual experiences.

Mack takes similar liberty with Spanos's study from 1993 as well, listing it as one source supporting the lack of evidence of mental or emotional disturbance, but ignoring Spanos's finding that the UFO-intense group's experiences were more frequently sleep-related and his conclusion that these experiences were due to prosaic sleep problems or misperceptions associated with sleep.

As noted above, while Mack bases much of his work on the model of abductions worked out by Hopkins and Jacobs, his interpretation of the nature of abductions is decidedly different. He admits that much of his case material makes little sense "in the framework of the Western ontological paradigm." His solution is to discard that paradigm in favour of one in which anything is possible, where "familiar words like 'happening', 'occurred' and 'real' will themselves have to be thought of differently, less literally perhaps." Nowhere in the book is it explained how we are to change our definitions of these words or concepts. This argument is an oft-repeated "stopper" which effectively excludes any attempt at logical or rational analysis of his argument.

Rarely is an alternative explanation offered to even the most bizarre of stories. For instance, Paul (one of the 13 case studies) reports being "present" as a nine-year-old boy at Roswell in 1947, nineteen years before he was born. In the absence of objective corroborative evidence, this story might be fairly considered to be fantasy or imagination, however powerful. Not for Mack, who asserts that "the accounts that he provides ...defy space/time reality," and suggests "such space/time traveling can only make sense by conceiving of consciousness as a kind of hologram of universal sourcefulness which can create matter and form itself and to which Paul, and each of us potentially, has access if we can open and 'let go' as called for into this primal universal information or energy fabric."

So much for differential diagnosis. Mack's redefinition of "real" has profound and far-reaching implications for modern Western psychiatric diagnoses like schizophrenia, and for hallucinations, dreams, "fantasy-prone personalities," hallucinogen-induced states, and mystical experiences. Such implications are not addressed in this work.

Mack's discussion of the status of physical manifestations of abductions is confused. In one place he says:

...[the aliens] manifest in the physical world and bring about definable consequences in that domain. Unexplained or missing pregnancies, a variety of minor physical lesions, odd nosebleeds...Often these findings are subtle and difficult to prove by the methods of empirical science. They must, therefore, be seen as secondary evidence in support of what the abductees have reported. The sheer consistency and number of these

accompanying physical findings make them too important to dismiss... (p. 392)

Yet elsewhere he makes an apparently contradictory statement:

It needs to be stressed that we do not know if any of the above phenomena exist literally on the purely material plane of reality, despite the apparent physical manifestations, such as perceived pregnancies and hybrid babies...(p. 417)

It seems that the "phenomena" in question are both physical and non-physical, or neither physical nor non-physical. If muddled language like this is where consciousness is evolving to, humanity is in big trouble. In any case, he gives no evidence to support "the sheer consistency and number" of these physical signs.

Mack pays his respect to the work of Hopkins and Jacobs, and explains that they have "established the essential consistency of the abduction phenomenon." Yet there is a major difference in his view of the abduction experience: While Hopkins and Jacobs see abductions as dehumanizing, traumatizing assaults, Mack expands on the "profound implications of the abduction phenomenon for the expansion of human consciousness, the opening of perception to realities beyond the manifest physical world and the necessity of changing our place in the cosmic order if the earth's living systems are to survive the human onslaught." Readers of these books should wonder what Hopkins and Jacobs think of this interpretation.

Mack's conclusion to one of his case studies neatly sums up his approach to abductions:

Dave [one of his subjects] leaves us finally with the choice of rejecting the entire body of his experience as the product of some sort of mental aberration or collective influence, or of considering the possibility that consciousness is a valid instrument of knowing and that the view of reality provided by the empirical methods of Western science has been too limited. (p. 291)

In setting up such simplistic dichotomies, and summarily dismissing the entire corpus of Western science, Mack undermines rather than encourages the paradigm shift he so passionately advocates. Because science, in the best sense of the idea, is not about denying soul or spirit; it is, as Richard Powers has observed, about "cultivating a perpetual condition of wonder in the face of something that forever grows one step richer and

subtler than our latest theory about it. It is about reverence, not mastery." Cultivating a scientific wonder about a phenomenon like the abduction experience, which, as Mack notes, shatters our notions of consensus reality, would have done infinitely more to nurture that sought-after bridge between Western and non-Western views of the universe than this volume.

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Dr. David Gotlib's review of "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens", by John Mack, M.D. appears in the June 1994 issue, Volume 5, No. 3 of the Bulletin of Anomalous Experience. BAE is published bi-monthly by David Gotlib, M.D., @ \$25.00/yr. Requests for subscriptions may be directed to:

David Gotlib, M.D.
Bulletin of Anomalous Experience
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 607
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4V 1L5
voice: 416-963-8700
fax: 416-962-4622
internet: drdave@io.org

Uxbridge - Continued from page 4

Most of the preliminary witnesses to this event were a good distance from it, eliminating the chance of hearing and seeing the aircraft. Atmospherics can also play havoc with your investigation changing the colour and appearance of any nocturnal light.

Another problem which was not mentioned in the previous text was that David Caskie had told us that the light had dropped below

the tree line then rose back into the sky, something that clearly a parachute flare should not do. I questioned David about this relating the events back to him as I had understood them. When I described the light as being still visible as it rose into the sky it was clear to all of us that what he had seen was another flare igniting in the sky, and that he had inferred that the light had risen.

The moral of the story is that any responsible UFO investigation should look for, and eliminate if possible, any known phenomena before falling into a state of UFOria and declaring an unexplained light in the night sky as an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Drew Williamson is Mufon's Section Director for Toronto.

Great White North - continued from page 5

I asked Andrea what they would do with all the unused film (no, we can't get copies of it -- it's never done) and was told that it will all go into the Encounters archives until the show is canceled. "And, pray tell, when the show is canceled, then what happens?" asks I, (knowing the answer but still hoping that maybe things have changed). "Well, then all the tapes are sent out for degaussing," Andrea says euphemistically. Now, for those of you who aren't familiar with the term "degaussing," it means literally to "demagnetize." Or, more simply put, it means that all the tapes will get erased and reused. Now, the crime here, if you will, is not what appears to be a general waste of time, money and effort, but rather the destruction of irreplaceable UFO-related material. But industry protocols, legal considerations, and other factors make salvaging this material virtually impossible. A sad fact of life, but, as they say, "That's Hollywood!"

And that's also a subtle segue into our next column, "ufos, lies, and audiotape," a somewhat more serious foray into the world of technology and ufology, as well as being a tribute to a great unsung hero of Canadian ufology.

Stay tuned!

INVESTIGATION

The Carp Case - Part III

*-The MUFON Ontario version-
by Errol Bruce-Knapp*

On February 4, 1993 Graham and Oechsler went to the Labanek's where Leanne Cuzak interviewed Bob Oechsler and Diane Labanek for CJOH-TV, Ottawa.

During this interview Labanek claimed that "a lot of others had seen the event that had transpired in my field". She didn't, however, seem to recall any names and in talking to many residents in the Manion Corner area, MUFON Ontario has not been able to find any other witnesses to the 'UFO Landing'.

During the CJOH-TV interview that day Oechsler also claimed that he too had received a large number of calls from 'witnesses'. Graham wasn't aware of any calls to the Labanek's or anywhere else other than a few to Oechsler's hotel.

Later that day, Graham Lightfoot and Oechsler met with a couple of high school girls in Almonte, a short drive from the Labanek's. They had called the Unsolved Mysteries Hotline, which again Graham wasn't aware of, to report that they knew who Guardian was. The name they gave wasn't Charlebois'. Oechsler told them who Guardian was. Oechsler, despite avowing not to, was blowing Guardian's cover'.

On February 24, 1993, Labanek told Graham and Oechsler about a sighting that her mother had the previous week. Her mother had seen a 'craft' hovering "not fifty feet from the house" but was too scared at the time to call out to anybody.

Later Labanek claimed that her husband saw a 'craft' around the same spot as the August '91 sighting. There were no explanations as to



Labanek's property

when or if there were any traces of this second 'landing'.

Apparently, neither of these 'incidents' were of interest to Oechsler and he has only mentioned them very briefly since and only in passing!

If these two events were 'real' why wouldn't he have investigated them too, instead of making such a fuss about the 'evidence' that he'd found nine months after the August '91 'landing'? Labanek's mother's and husband's 'experiences' would have surely produced more witnesses and ground effects?!

'LOW -FLYING' HELICOPTERS

Labanek has constantly complained about being harassed by 'low-flying' helicopters that blew shingles off her roof. When close neighbours were questioned by MUFON Ontario investigators about any low-flying choppers they might have observed, they only mentioned the regular Air Ambulance flights that passed overhead and the occasional military or Mountie aircraft. Not one mentioned choppers flying at unusually low altitudes - below the regulation five-hundred feet.

At the time of describing her mother's 'sighting' to Graham and Oechsler, Labanek told of a white helicopter that passed over the house the following day. Subsequent investigation showed that it was a NATO aircraft on a training-exercise and that it too would not have been flying below the standard five-hundred foot level.

Due to the proximity of the Labanek's neighbours it would be impossible for a helicopter to fly low enough to blow the shingles off one house and not be noticed by the residents of neighbouring houses.

Labanek had told Graham that she knew nothing about UFOs, nor did she care about them or talk about them with anyone. And yet, when the Unsolved Mysteries show was being taped at her home, one of the 'grips' on the crew setting up a scene (in which Guardian was mailing a video) in Labanek's basement recreation room, found "cupboards containing many UFO books".

GRAHAM'S CORRESPONDENCE TO THE 'UNSOLVED MYSTERIES' SHOW

On February 28, 1993 Graham wrote the following to Bob Kiviat, producer of the Unsolved Mysteries segment on 'Guardian'.

Bob Kiviat, Producer

Cosgrove/ Meurer Productions etc.

Dear Bob,

No doubt you've heard from Oechsler that there has been another sighting at Labanek's... on Feb 17th '93. It was Diane's mother who saw the event at 11:10 pm, very close to the house. She was so frightened that she didn't call to Diane and no one else saw it. She said the craft was right over the garden which means it was within 50 feet of the house. It hovered there for a short while and moved south over the swamp, in the direction that the 1989 'crash' light was seen. It came back beside the house and then moved off out of sight over the swamp. She described it as having a flashing light on top and lots of light all around it. She pulled the curtains from the window, but didn't wake anyone else in the house. The next day a white helicopter arrived and flew over the same course.

Oechsler may or may not have told you he is working with the RCMP in trying to get Guardian's (Bobby Charlesbois) fingerprints. He tells me he is trying to get the RCMP to charge Bobby with a minor charge of forging DND documents to scare him into an admission. This is contrary to Oechsler's stated intent to Bobby, of not disclosing Bobby's identity if he wished to

remain anonymous.

I am trusting you to keep my comments to you in confidence from Oechsler as I will no doubt be working with him again on this case. I have no problem working with him at arms length, but his methods and rather chaotic behavior bothers me. He has told me that he wants to set up a 24-hours a day, two week watch at the the Labanek's since he feels the sightings will re-occur in the near future. He has no funding for this operation and told me he will seek help from your company in this regard.

This may all be a good idea, but my feeling is that these things will run their course, with or without 24-hour surveillance. In fact I'd hazard a guess that the event is less likely to occur with surveillance.

I've heard through the grapevine that the 'expert' on the Sightings show claims he doesn't know who Oechsler is, never met him. It seems Sightings showed the tape to this 'expert' and he said he didn't know what it was. Also MUFON is distancing itself from Oechsler after their credibility suffered with the Gulf Breeze story. It seems Oechsler wants to speak at their annual meeting and they don't want him there.

Oechsler has a lot of background information and he certainly has a lot of contacts that are invaluable in doing research of this nature. He is persistent in looking for evidence, yet at the same time he often tries to build a case to fit his preconceived story line.

This bothers me.

We have talked about his ego and wanting credit for everything he learns. That's OK by me. In the Labanek case he used a lot of material that I got for him. The show implied that he found Labanek's place from the Guardian map. He could have spent weeks looking for the location on his own.

But what bothers me the most is his tunnel vision, that only he can find the answers.

Graham Lightfoot

THE RCMP INVOLVEMENT



On March 4, '93, Oechsler phoned Graham to boast that he had asked the RCMP to apply pressure the Guardian suspect, Bobby Charlebois, by charging him with forging Department of National Defence documents.

In actual fact, the only way the RCMP would have paid any attention would have been if a formal complaint was filed by a Canadian Citizen.

What Oechsler didn't tell Graham was that a complaint was lodged by the Labaneks who told the RCMP that they were being 'harassed' by helicopters flying over their property, below the 500 feet minimum set by the Federal Government.

March 8, brought a call from Labanek to Graham. She complained about being 'harassed' by the RCMP. She said that they tried to get her to sign a 'confession' (her word) that craft she saw landing in her field on the night of August 18, 1991 was a helicopter! She also claimed that Bobby 'Guardian' Charlebois was also being 'harassed' by the Mounties and had hired a lawyer.

Graham, at the time, was convinced that Labanek was telling the truth and felt that something should be done about her complaints. He called Charlie Greenwell at CJOH-TV in Ottawa and suggested that perhaps the station could cover the story on their local news. A report aired three days later on the 6 O'clock News.

CJOH-TV's news item infuriated Oechsler. On March 29, he blasted Graham for giving the story to a TV station. This puzzled Graham - why would Oechsler take exception to him helping Labanek expose RCMP harassment?

What Graham didn't know was that the complaint to the Mounties was lodged by the Labaneks, apparently at the urging of Oechsler, to increase the credibility of the Carp Case.

A censored copy of the RCMP report on the case, obtained by Christian Page of The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in Quebec, told a different story.

The Labanek's complaint was actually filed with the RCMP on February 10, 1993! The purpose of the investigation was to:

[Quote from RCMP Report]

1. ascertain if sufficient evidence was available to support a prosecution under the Aeronautics Act, Section 534 (2) (b) for flying below 500 feet.
2. ascertain if in fact the object observed was an aircraft.
3. ascertain if the craft observed (by complainant) is a UFO (as per complainant).

[End Quote]

The investigation by RCMP Constable De Haitre, started on February 15, 1993 with interviews of the Labanek's neighbours.

De Haitre found that signs bearing the words 'Defence Canada', 'Killing Fields', and a 'Test Area' sign with a hand-painted tank and 'Air-Wolf' helicopter on it had been seen in a field that later proved to be owned by the Labanek's. Const. De Haitre observed in his report that the lettering-style on the signs was similar to those in the Guardian documents.

Constable De Haitre was told by one of the Labaneks neighbours that another sign had the word 'Nuclear' mis-spelled as 'Nuclear'.

Oechsler then directed his energies toward De Haitre and Canadian Airforce Major Patterson - which created more confusion.

Oechsler told Constable De Haitre about finding Titanium at the 'landing site' in the Labanek's field and showed him some of the photographs that he had taken. He also told De Haitre that there were no traces of Strontium, which there would have been had the flares at the 'site' been of the military 'high-heat', type.

Later, in the February/March issue of UFO Library Magazine, Oechsler wrote that he "had the smoking-gun in the pyrotechnical mystery". He now claimed that there was evidence of Lithium Carbonate which is not used in military flares, but rather in "expensive fireworks displays" (or perhaps in roadside emergency flares?). Fireworks that, of course, can be purchased at any 7-11 Store.

Isn't it strange that he would wait a whole year to tell the world the results of his 'tests'?

Oechsler had results of a test that refuted his completely baseless theory about military flares being used at the Carp 'landing site' and didn't publish them for over a year?

And what did he do during that time? He travelled the lecture circuit making money telling people that the flares were definitely military in origin because of the strontium residue that he didn't find at the 'landing site'!

Oechsler tried to cement his relationship with the RCMP. He told Constable De Haitre about his 'witnesses' and his 'analysis' of the Guardian video and suggested that Bobby 'Guardian' Charlebois be charged under the 'Fraudulent Cheque Act' for distributing forged Government documents (the 'Canadian Department of National Defence' documents). De Haitre concluded that no charges could be laid.

De Haitre investigated Oechsler's claims about Titanium and Strontium flare-residue and included the results about the circumstances under which they could and could not be found and where, in the final RCMP report on the case.

Several conversations and correspondence occurred between Oechsler and Constable De Haitre, all of which the Mountie, naturally, recorded in his notes on the case.

MUFON Ontario has recently acquired a 150 page package of De Haitre's notes and correspondence from Oechsler to the RCMP. This package will be published shortly, as an appendix, in The MUFON Ontario Report on The Guardian Case. **To be continued.**

The following article is Bob Oechsler's rebuttal to the RCMP report posted in a computer bulletin board in Montreal by Mr. Leblanc.

"...Bob Oechsler Investigations Analyst

RCMP GRC - INVESTIGATION REPORT: (Commentary)

The investigation conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Federal Investigations Unit was the basis of the report recently filed by Mr. Leblanc of O.C.I.P.E (Organizations de Compilation et d'information sur les Phenomenes Etranges). Since the Guardian investigation is a significantly compelling one, I'll confine this rebuttal to the issues raised in Mr. Leblanc's report with specific attention to the RCMP investigation cited. Readers can write to the referenced address for more detailed information on my investigation regarding the Guardian Case.

Although I was intimately involved in the RCMP Investigation following a complaint filed by a resident concerned about the low level helicopter flights in the area and perplexed about the reports of a UFO landing nearby, the RCMP refused my written request for a copy of their final report citing internal regulations. Therefore in spite of Mr. Leblanc's arrogant perplexity at my failure to publish the RCMP report, this was the first time I've actually seen it. Nonetheless, I was familiar with much of the contents and am aware of the identities of most of those interviewed along with their comments.

Consequently, I am fully prepared to respond to the arguments raised.

The primary issues raised in the RCMP Investigation centered on the reports of potentially illegal helicopter air traffic operations in West Carleton township. As a result of my investigation on the same issue with the Department of National Defence (DND), the RCMP contacted me regarding my investigation into the videotape of a reported landing of an unusual aircraft on private property. That's how the UFO issue got pulled into the investigation.

When I was contacted by RCMP Constable Dennis De Haitre, he was interested in what information I might have to help in his investigation. I agreed to participate on an information exchange basis which was honored in principle. Cst. De Haitre made it clear to me that his investigation was on thin ice due to adverse public relations concerns regarding the investigation of a reported UFO incident. I indicated to him that my investigation was initiated with the conviction that the event most probably was some sort of military operation. There appeared to be enough evidence in the video to detect military pyrotechnic flare residue at the landing site. The laboratory results proved negative on required detectable elements and most likely eliminated military involvement. Thus began the scramble at RCMP HQ to come up with a viable explanation for the craft in the Guardian video, namely a helicopter. It seemed to be the optimum solution for them since there were so many reports of helicopters in the area, yet the DND report concluded the object in the video and the helicopters unidentified.

When it became evident to Cst. De Haitre and his superiors that I was prepared to put my technical experts with impeccable credentials up against his experts for a meeting at RCMP HQ, they declined my invitation and terminated the case investigation. Cst. De Haitre scheduled one final meeting with me at RCMP HQ in Ottawa to return some investigation exhibits which were loaned to him for his investigation. During that meeting I was permitted to review a letter in the file from an individual at another Canadian Government Agency.

The letter detailed the author's expertise and indicated that based on several points (which will be addressed in this report) he concluded that the object in the Guardian video was a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter.

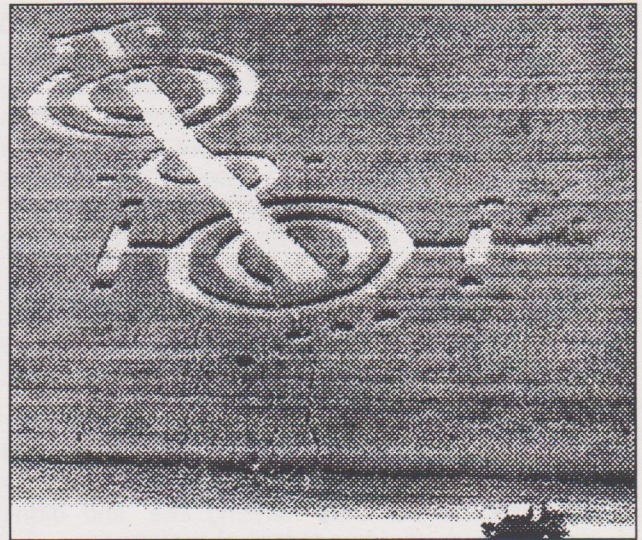
The specifics cited from the Guardian video suggesting a helicopter include a presumed relationship between the rapidly strobing blue light on top of the craft which reflects off a curved surface and the masthead light which is a white light shining "up" through the control rods at the rotor assembly on a helicopter. This is a ludicrous assumption that is easily refuted as the premise for the explanation of the object depicted in the video. The first problem with the hypothesis exists in the RCMP concession that the rotor assembly is operating at 360 to 400 RPM. Any rotation of the rotor assembly would visibly affect the pyrotechnics smoke which is drifting toward the object at 7 to 11 knots, which incidentally matches the meteorological report for the date and time period. No such effect is visible on the video tape.

Another issue associated with the helicopter hypothesis and the rotation of the rotor assembly involves the analysis of the audio track from the Guardian videotape. The RCMP investigation revealed that a sound could be heard on the tape that is consistent with the sound of rotating chopper blades. I retained the services of an acoustical physicist to conduct an audio analysis. One of several steps involved in the analysis required dubbing the audio track from the Guardian videotape onto a digital audio tape recording (DAT). The sound attributed to the helicopter hypothesis was not on the DAT and therefore it could only be attributed to video noise associated with the bright burst of light coming from the blue strobe. The video noise need not be a product of the audio track in order to be audible.

Frame by frame analysis of the Guardian videotape refutes another factor in the masthead light issue in the helicopter scenario. In order to account for the 7-8 Hz oscillation frequency of the flashing "blue" (white shows up white on video, never blue) strobe light in the video, RCMP analysts concluded that the rotor assembly would need to operate at 360-400 RPM. With the masthead light turned on, the control rods might give the impression of a strobe effect. There are several problems inherent with this theory. The masthead light would have to be of tremendous luminosity in order to match the video image and the control rods not matter how thick could not totally blank out the scatter effect of the constantly burning light. And there is nothing to account for the reflection of the strobe on the lower surface of the craft. RCMP declined a suggested demonstration with a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter. The Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation reviewed the Guardian video materials and could find no one who could agree with the RCMP interpretation..." **To be continued.**



Sikorsky S-76



Windsor Star Photo/Nick Brancaccio

MYSTERIOUS PATTERN IN WHEAT FIELD - MALDEN CENTRE, ONTARIO.

by Sue Kovios

A pictogram discovered by farmer Jon Parks in a neighbour's wheat field, was created sometime during the week of July 11, 1994 and became the talk of the town in Malden Centre which is located just south of Windsor, Ontario.

While driving down Concession 7, south of Highway 18 past neighbours Darwin and Gerry Wismer's farm on Tuesday, July 12, Mr. Parks noticed that the wheat seemed to be flattened.

The pictogram was based on a central corridor, about 50 metres long by 2.5 metres wide. The largest circle measured 15 metres in diameter. Several T-shaped figures were attached to the main body and circular marks about two metres in diameter had been formed alongside.

(Editor's note: Tom & Lise Theofanous, Sue Kovios and Peter Avramidis were at the local on July 17, 1994 to assess the situation. We shall provide more details as they become available.)

The 1993 CANADIAN UFO SURVEY - Part I

Five Years of UFOs

Compiled by *Chris A. Rutkowski*

Contributors:

Paul Anderson, UFO BC	Roy Bauer, UFOROM	Steve Bucek, UFO BC	Charles Burchil
Grant Cameron, UFOROM	Daniel Clairmont, MUFON SK	Graham Conway, UFO BC	Tony Cowling, UFO BC
Michel Deschamps, MUFON ON	Frances Ellis, UFO BC	Lorne Goldfader, UFORIC	Jeff Harland, UFOROM
Robert Hawkes	Gordon Kijek, AUFOSG	George Kriger, UFOROM	Victor Lourenco, MUFON ON
Mike McLarty, MUFON ON	Robert McGeachy, UFOROM	Rob Nowatschka, UFO BC	Christian Page, UFO PQ
Stephen Parsons, MUFON ON	Vladimir Simosko, UFOROM	Michael Strainic, UFO BC	David Thacker, AUFOSG
Tom Theofanous, MUFON ON	Ruth Walde, MUFON SK	Donald Vanden Hoorn, UFO BC	Bonnie Wheeler, CUFORG
Drew Williamson, MUFON ON			

Published by

Ufology Research of Manitoba - Box 1918 Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3C 3R2

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Introduction

Since 1989, UFO case data has been solicited from all known and active investigators and researchers in Canada for analyses and comparison with other compilations. Before that time, individual researchers would normally maintain their own files, with little or no communication with others. Even today, representatives of major UFO organizations often do not regularly submit case data, and the parent organizations themselves tend not to do much analyses with the data they do receive, although this is changing.

After favourable responses from the publication of previous *Canadian UFO Surveys*, UFOROM decided to continue the systematic collection of raw UFO report data in Canada and prepare yearly reports for general circulation. It always has been felt that the dissemination of such data would be of great advantage to researchers, so it is presented here once again as data with some analysis.

This is not to suggest that statistical studies of UFO data are without their limitations and problems. Allan Hendry, in his landmark book *The UFO Handbook*, pointed out flaws in such studies and asked:

... do UFO statistics represent a valid pursuit for more knowledge about this elusive phenomenon, or do they merely reflect frustration that none of the individual reports are capable of standing on their own two feet? (1979, p. 269)

Hendry offered six questions to ask of statistical ufology:

- 1) Does the report collection reflect truly random sampling?
- 2) Have the individual cases been adequately validated?
- 3) Are apples and oranges being compared? Are NLs necessarily the same kind of UFO as DDs?
- 4) Are differing details among cases obscured through simplification for the purpose of comparisons?
- 5) Does the study imply the question: "Surely this mass of data proves UFOs exist?"

and 6) Do the correlations really show causality?

The Canadian UFO Survey was undertaken with these and other critical comments in mind. Readers are left to judge for themselves the value of these statistical analyses.

Canadian UFO Data

The response from Canadian researchers to requests for 1993 data was less prompt than in previous years; there was some difficulty in receiving cases from the "active" researchers and there are still some researchers who, for whatever reasons, do not submit cases for the annual survey. In addition, some researchers do not maintain usable case files and do not retain quantitative criteria in their investigations (for example, contactee groups). It is now known that only a small fraction of "active" ufologists and self-proclaimed "researchers" actually investigate cases and maintain useable records. However, despite these problems, more than twice the number of reports were obtained for 1993 than the previous year. The 1993 report may be much more comprehensive because of its broader database.

In 1989, 141 UFO reports were obtained for analysis. In 1990, 194 reports were recorded. In 1991, 165 reports were received and in 1992, 223 cases were examined. In 1993, 489 reports were obtained, an increase of more than 200% over the previous year.

In 1993, reports were obtained from contributing investigators' files, press clippings, the files of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and fireball reports from geophysicists and astronomers associated with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Meteor and Impacts Advisory Committee (MIAC) affiliated with the Canadian Space Agency. The NRC routinely receives UFO reports from private citizens and from RCMP, civic police and military personnel. Included among the NRC reports are many observations of meteors and fireballs, and these have been added into the UFO report database since 1989.

There are several reasons for including such IFOs in the UFO report database. First, previous studies of UFO data have included meteor and fireball reports. For this study, the working definition of a UFO is: "an object seen in the sky which its observer cannot identify." In many instances, observers fail to recognize stars, aircraft and bolides, and report them as UFOs. That is why some UFO investigators often spend many hours sorting IFOs from UFOs. Historically, analyses of UFO data such as American projects like Grudge, Sign and Blue Book all included raw UFO data which later resolved into categories of UFOs and IFOs. Second, observed objects are sometimes quickly assigned a particular IFO explanation even though later investigation suggests such an explanation was unwarranted. One 1993 case can serve as an example: Case NRC 93-030, on 26 February 1993, in Cambellton, New Brunswick. It involved a triangular formation of 11 lights in which moved slowly through a fog layer and was observed for 45 seconds by a witness. The label assigned the report was "possible meteorite." Given the information on the case, it is probable that the object was not a "meteorite," but it is impossible to give a definitive explanation at this time.

Fireballs have always been reported in Canada. The tremendous increase in fireball reports for 1993 suggests that people have become more comfortable with reporting observations of unusual objects in the sky. Another factor is that organizations such as the Canadian Space Agency appear to be more visible to the general public and are requesting and receiving fireball information. This easier access to information has accelerated by the blossoming of the so-called "Information Highway" and the Internet. Indeed, many of the reports in the 1993 survey came via electronic mail and newsgroups.

Until 1993, the number of Canadian UFO reports appeared to remain constant at an average of 180 cases per year, even allowing for the influx of cases from new contributors to the database. However, the number of reports received in 1993 represents a significant increase over previous years. The largest contributor to this increase was a single fireball event on October 30, 1993. That evening, a spectacular object and a sonic boom was reported by literally hundreds of people throughout Canada. More than 120 individual reports were filed with astronomers, RCMP, police, the NRC and other agencies. (This event will be discussed later in this report.) The implication of this case is that statistical tabulations of UFO characteristics in 1993 will be skewed by a significant amount.

Note on Missing Data:

Several problems were encountered in acquiring and using data submitted by Canadian ufologists:

- 1) In some provinces, localized flaps prevented investigators from following up individual reports, and instead only noted that several dozen reports were received from a certain area during a particular month. In these situations, the meagre report data (often just a note that an anonymous person had left a message on an answering machine saying that an object had been seen, but no other details) could not be satisfactorily added to the database. (The number of such "lost" sightings is not insignificant; more than 200 reports may fall into this category, thus raising the true number of reported UFOs in 1993 in Canada to about 700!)
- 2) Only one Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind (CE4) was included in the database. It should probably have been eliminated. CE4s are the sensational "abduction" cases which are currently receiving wide attention. Some researchers have speculated that thousands of such abductions occur each year, based on various surveys and the number of witnesses ("experiencers") coming forward. Since abductions are often reported long after the fact, exact times and dates may be meaningless as UFO data. Similarly, since witnesses' memories are clouded or obscured, other data such as colour, duration and even location may be impossible to ascertain. Indeed, if, as some zetetics would suggest, that abductions are a psychological rather than a "real" phenomenon, then CE4s may not be appropriate for inclusion in UFO databases. And, if they really are true close encounters, their complexity decrees that their inclusion in a raw data listing might be inappropriate as well. For these and other reasons, all other CE4 cases were not included in this study. From information received through conversations and interviews with abductee therapists and other researchers, it is possible to speculate that at least 25 relatively-documented abductee cases occurred in Canada in 1993.
- 3) Approximately 30 reports were received after statistical analyses had been run. This is unfortunate, but emphasizes the need for ufologists to respond promptly to requests for data. Although it is widely known that data collection for this annual study begins in January of each year, many ufologists delay sending their data or ignore repeated requests for data submissions.

Method

Data for each case was received by UFOROM from participating researchers across Canada. The information then was coded and entered into a WordPerfect file, separated by tabs. The file was then converted into ASCII DOS text and uploaded into a UNIX environment where it was read into a SAS statistical package and analyzed.

The coding key is as follows:

Example: 993 10 23 2108 CALGARY AB NL 600 BLUE 1 TRI RUMBLE 6 DND P

Field: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Field 1 is a default YEAR for the report (UFOROM is now coding to allow for the next millennium).

Field 2 is the MONTH of the incident.

Field 3 is the DATE of the sighting.

Field 4 is the local TIME, on the 24-hour clock.

Field 5 is the geographical LOCATION of the incident.

Field 6 is the PROVINCE where the sighting occurred.

Field 7 is TYPE of report.

Field 8 is the DURATION of the sighting, in seconds (a value of 600 thus represents 10 minutes).
 Field 9 is the primary COLOUR of the object(s) seen.
 Field 10 is the number of WITNESSES.
 Field 11 is the SHAPE of the primary object.
 Field 12 indicates whether or not a SOUND was heard.
 Field 13 is the assessed QUALITY of the report.
 Field 14 is the SOURCE of the report.
 Field 15 is the EVALUATION of the case.

Analyses of the Data

In 1993, there were apparent significant increases in the number of reports in Manitoba, while there was an apparent decrease in reports in Alberta and Quebec. As usual, British Columbia represents the largest fraction of UFO reports of all the provinces. Since 1990, BC has garnered between 30% and 40% of the total number of cases per year. As mentioned in previous annual reports, this is partly due to the highly efficient UFO reporting system in that province, and the comparatively large number of active investigators. The rest of the Provinces appear to have had average numbers of reports in 1993.

If we look at only the NRC as a source for UFO reports, the geographical distribution of cases is more related to population. The most reports then come from Ontario, followed by Manitoba and Quebec. As mentioned earlier, there was a major fireball over the prairies in 1993, raising the number of cases from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and this caused the higher proportion of reports from those two provinces. Taking that factor into account, the distribution of cases agrees somewhat better with population, although there is still an overabundance of reports from Western Canada. It is not clear why this would be so.

TABLE 1
Distribution of UFO Reports by Province

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	PEI	NS	NF	YK	NWT
1989	15	16	18	22	34	28	1	-	3	3	-	1
1990	76	9	10	20	21	36	7	3	5	4	1	2
1991	59	22	7	6	30	16	9	1	7	4	1	-
1992	90	8	9	23	56	10	9	-	3	4	3	1
1993	157	56	93	74	51	32	3	1	3	7	-	5

The monthly breakdowns of reports during each year show slightly different patterns from those of previous years. In 1989, there was a significant increase in UFO reports in the late fall, with other months maintaining what appeared to be a fairly constant "normal" level of reports. But 1990 saw two major increases in report numbers in two months: April and August. The "normal" level of monthly report numbers appeared to be constant in other months, with minor fluctuations. In 1991, reports peaked in August, but there was no single obvious trough. The 1992 breakdown again shows no clear peaks in monthly report numbers. This is most curious, because UFO reports often are thought to peak in summer and trough in winter. This has *never* been the case with Canadian UFO reports throughout this five-year period of study. In 1993, the opposite of what is usually imagined was true: there were peaks in winter, and troughs in summer. The October peak is easily explained as due to the fireball. Even taking this into account, there are more cases in fall than in summer, and more in winter than spring and early fall. Again, there is no immediately obvious reason for this.

However, in an historical analysis of 480 Manitoba UFO cases in UFOROM's MANUFOCAT, a distinct June peak and December trough was found. Analyses of 13,000 cases in Project Blue Book found a similar June peak and December trough, though Hendry (1979) suggested that this was a statistical artefact. Further studies are needed to understand the monthly distribution of UFO data.

TABLE 2
Monthly Report Numbers

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1989	13	9	6	9	5	9	5	5	12	32	27	9
1990	17	7	6	47	10	10	9	47	15	16	10	-
1991	13	7	17	12	7	12	16	25	16	12	11	17
1992	15	16	27	16	22	16	23	19	11	16	21	21
1993	59	15	20	22	14	38	27	49	41	152	24	21

An analysis by report type shows a similar breakdown to that found in previous years. The percentage of cases of a particular type remains roughly constant from year to year, with minor variations. Nocturnal lights (NLs), for example, comprised 60% of all reports in 1989, 73% in 1990, 67% in 1991, 61% in 1992 and up to a high of 76% in 1993. The average of these is 69%, which agrees well with the meta-analysis conducted by Hendry (1979), which found that NLs comprised 70% of the cases studied. But, because he was using the original standard Hynek classification system, he did not have the present category of Nocturnal Discs (NDs). These were probably distributed between NLs and DDs in his study.

TABLE 3
Report Types (Modified Hynek Classifications)

	NL	ND	DD	CE1	CE2	CE3	CE4	EV	RD	PH
1989	84	20	16	10	7	-	2	2		
1990	141	24	15	2	1	-	4	3		
1991	110	26	13	7	4	1	2		1	1
1992	136	44	20	15	5	2	3			1
1993	372	77	26	8	2	1	1	1		

For those unfamiliar with the classifications, a summary follows:

- NL (Nocturnal Light) - light source in night sky
- ND (Nocturnal Disc) - light source in night sky that appears to have a definite shape
- DD (Daylight Disc) - unknown object observed during daytime hours
- CE1 (Close Encounter of the First Kind) - ND or DD occurring within 200 metres of a witness
- CE2 (Close Encounter of the Second Kind) - CE1 where physical effects left or noted
- CE3 (Close Encounter of the Third Kind) - CE1 where figures/entities are encountered
- CE4 (Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind) - an alleged "abduction" or "contact" experience
- EV (Evidence) - a case where physical traces left by an event are the primary claim
- RD (Radar) - UFOs observed on radar
- PH (Photograph) - photographs of a UFO, but no actual sighting

The category of **Nocturnal Disc** was created by UFOROM for differentiation within its own report files. Similarly, **Evidence** is also an ad hoc creation, and may not be applicable by other researchers. Normally, **Evidence** would include such physical traces as "crop circles", "landing rings" and "saucer nests". However, in 1990 there was a great increase in the numbers of such traces discovered in North America, and it was decided to treat these as separate from UFO reports in these Surveys.

The breakdown by Evaluation for 1993 cases was similar to results from previous years. There were four operative categories: **Explained**, **Insufficient Information**, **Possible or Probable Explanation**, and **Unknown (or Unexplained)**. Readers are warned that a classification of **Unknown** does *not* imply that an alien spacecraft was observed; no such interpretation can be made with certainty, based on the given data (though the probability of this scenario is admittedly never zero). In most cases, Evaluations are made subjectively by both the contributing investigators and the compiler of this report. The category of **Unknown** is adopted if the contributed data or case report contains enough information such that a conventional explanation cannot be satisfactorily proposed. This does *not* mean that the case will never be explained, but only that a viable explanation is not immediately obvious.

TABLE 4
Evaluation of Canadian UFO Data

	1989		1990		1991		1992		1993	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Explained					2	1.2	17	8	154	31.5
Insuf.	74	52.5	90	46.4	80	48.5	83	37	170	34.8
Poss.	47	33.3	78	40.2	69	41.8	74	33	115	23.5
Unknown	20	14.2	26	13.4	14	8.5	49	22	50	10.2

The average proportion of Unknowns throughout the 5-year study was about 14.5%, a high figure considering that this would imply that more than one in ten UFOs cannot be explained. However, there are several factors which affect this value. The level and quality of UFO report investigation varies because there are no explicit standards for ufologists. Some "believers" might be biased to consider most UFO sightings as mysterious, whereas those with more of a sceptical predisposition might tend to subconsciously (or consciously!) reduce the Unknowns in their files. Furthermore, since there are no absolutes, the subjective nature of assigning Evaluations is actually an interpretation of the facts by individual researchers.

If we look only at those Unknowns with a Quality rating of eight or greater, we then are left with only 26 high-quality Unknowns in 1993 (5.3%). This value is comparable with other years: 4.9% in 1989, 4.6% in 1990, 7.3% in 1991 and 7.6% in 1992. And, if we eliminate the category of NLs from the 1993 Unknowns in an attempt to focus on detailed, close observations of UFOs, we get only 16 cases out of the original 489, or 3.3%. This last value is in accordance with the USAF Blue Book studies which found three to four percent of their cases were "excellent" Unknowns.

The average Quality rating of reports was 6.36, indicating that there was a significant amount of useful information available through investigations for the majority of cases. A breakdown of Quality versus Evaluation shows that both the Explained and Unknown reports carried with them a substantial amount of information. Obviously, in those cases, either the investigators found enough evidence to explain the observations as of conventional objects, or found that their investigations could not find an explanation with the same quality and level of information. The cases with Possible explanations or Insufficient Information were of much lower Quality and, hence, less information for evaluation.

The Quality of Nocturnal Lights varied considerably, while NDs, DDs and CEs had an average Quality Rating near 7 on the scale.

Finally, it should be emphasized that even these high-quality Unknowns do not imply alien visitation. Each case may still have an explanation following further investigation. And of those that remain unexplained, they remain unexplained, but still are not incontrovertible proof of extraterrestrial intervention.

The hourly distribution of cases follows a similar pattern for 1993 as in previous years. There appears to be a continuous curve, with a peak at 2200 hours local and a trough around 1100 hours local. Most sightings occur between 9:00 p.m. and midnight. Since most UFOs are nocturnal lights, this is not unexpected. The number of possible observers drops off sharply near midnight, and we would expect that the hourly rate of UFO reports would vary with two factors: potential observers and darkness.

The average number of witnesses per case went down from a value of 2.12/case in 1989 to 1.40/case in 1990, then up again to 1.91/case in 1991. In 1992, this value was up slightly to 2.36/case. The average number of witnesses in 1993 was 2.07/case. The five-year average was 1.97 witnesses per case. These figures indicate that a typical UFO experience has **more than one witness**, and support the contention that UFO sightings represent observations of physical phenomena.

The category of **Duration** is interesting in that it represents the *subjective* length of time the UFO experience lasted. Naturally, these times are greatly suspect because it is known that people tend to misjudge the flow of time. However, some people *can* be good at estimating time, so this value has some meaning. Although an estimate of "one hour" may be in error by several minutes, it is unlikely that the correct value would be, for example, one *minute* (disregarding the claims of "missing time" during the abduction category of experiences). Furthermore, there have been cases when a UFO was observed and clocked accurately, so that we can be reasonably certain that UFO events can last considerable periods of time. The average duration of a sighting can be calculated as a summation of all given durations then divided by the number of cases with a stated duration. The resulting value for 1991 is about 12 minutes, down from 19 minutes in 1990. In 1992 and 1993, the average duration was again about 12 minutes. This surprisingly long duration is due likely to the large number of sightings lasting only a few seconds contrasted with the comparative few that lasted several hours.

An interesting result of the analyses is that long-duration sightings tend to occur in the early morning hours, from about midnight until 6:00 a.m. It is probable that the majority of observations at this time are those of astronomical objects, moving slowly with the rotation of the Earth.

Duration data by itself is not wholly useful in analyzing UFO behaviour. Hendry describes Duration data this way:

Duration is a powerful feature of identity when it refers to extremely short and long events, but is otherwise mostly a reflection of the witness's behaviour during the event, coupled with the fluctuating behaviour of the objects watched. (1979, p. 249)

Extremely short duration events are usually fireballs or bolides, while very long duration events of an hour or more are very probably astronomical objects. In between, there can be no way to distinguish conventional objects from UFOs solely with Duration data. (Hendry also cites a Canadian study by an Ontario UFO group which timed aircraft observations and found that the duration of such sightings varied between 15 seconds to more than 8 minutes.)

The Duration of sightings decreased with the number of reports. The majority of sightings had Durations of only a few seconds, while those with longer Duration were less in number.

In cases where a colour of an object was reported in 1993, the most common colour was white (36.3%), followed distantly by red (15.7%). Other colours were also represented, although there is a noticeable change from previous years, when green and orange were the dominant colours. Since most UFOs are nocturnal starlike objects, the abundance of white objects is not surprising. Other colours such as red, blue and green often are associated with bolides (fireballs).

Shape was a good predictor of UFO type, as was expected. Fireballs and point sources were usually Nocturnal Lights, whereas cigars, discs and triangles were either Nocturnal Discs or Daylight Discs.

Summary of Results

As with previous annual Surveys, the 1993 Survey does not offer any positive proof of the physical reality of UFOs. However, it does show that some phenomenon which is called a UFO is continually being observed by witnesses. The typical UFO sighting is that of two people observing a moving, distant white or red light for several minutes. In most cases, the UFO is likely to be eventually identified as a conventional

object such as an aircraft or astronomical object. However, in a small percentage of cases, some UFOs do not appear to have an easy explanation and they may be given the label of "unknown".

What are these "unknowns"? An additional classification is useful to try and better understand this kind of report. In the gathering of data for the study, contributors were asked to give a value for their personal Evaluation of the reliability of the report. This value is noted as "E" in the case listing. This value gives the likelihood that the UFO experience "really" occurred as described by the witness. Granted, it is impossible for any investigator to judge this absolute value; often, a subjective value for two categories of "strangeness" and "probability" is assigned. The Evaluation value is another subjective value imposed by the investigator or compiler (or both) with a scale such that the low values represent cases with little information content and observers of limited observing abilities and the higher values represent those cases with excellent witnesses (pilots, police, etc.) and also are well-investigated. Naturally, cases with higher values are preferred.

The 1993 high-quality unexplained cases were the following:

9930130 1900 Quidi Vidi,NF	ND 3600s blue ball, 20 witnesses, STRA
9930226 1805 Arthur,ON	DD 720s black cigar, 2 witnesses, CAM
9930402 1715 Prince George,BC	DD 900s black object, 2 witnesses, STRA
9930514 2200 Penticton,BC	ND 10s cigar-shaped object, 2 witnesses, STRA
9930725 2130 Brocklehurst,BC	ND 300s 1 witness, STRA
9930726 0100 Brocklehurst,BC	ND 3600s round object, 4 witnesses, STRA
9930802 2230 Mission,BC	DD 15s red triangle, 3 witnesses, RCMP
9930804 0436 Glenella,MB	ND 120s yellow object, 1 witness, URM
9930812 0030 Lethbridge,AB	ND 5s black triangle, 3 witnesses, ASG
9930820 2245 Winnipeg,MB	DD 90s yellow triangle, 1 witness, URM
9930821 2045 Vernon,BC	ND 150s polygon, 12 witnesses, STRA
9930822 1930 Kamloops,BC	ND 3s white trapezoid, 1 witness, STRA
9930901 0330 Dorothy Lake,MB	C3 60s blue light & entity, 1 witness, URM
9930912 1800 Surrey,BC	ND 20s silver triangle, 3 witnesses, STRA
9930912 2030 New Westminster,BC	ND 20s red oval object, 2 witnesses, STRA
9931219 2340 Cold Lake,AB	C1 1200s 2 witnesses, ASG

The interpretation of this list is that these cases were among the most challenging of all the reports received in 1993. It should be noted that most UFO cases go unreported, and that there may be ten times as many UFO sightings that go unreported as those which get reported to public, private or military agencies. Furthermore, it should be noted that some cases with lower reliability ratings suffer only from incomplete investigations, and that they may well be more mysterious than those on the above list.

UFOs were reported at a rate of about 40 per month across all of Canada in 1993, although throughout the 5-year span of this study, the rate drops to 20 per month. Witnesses range from farmhands to airline pilots and from teachers to police. Witnesses represent all age groups and racial origin. What is being observed? In most cases, only ordinary objects. However, this begs a question. If people are reporting things that can be explained, then the objects they observed were "really" there. Were the objects we can't identify "really" there as well? If so, what were they?

These are questions only continued and rational research can answer, and only if researchers have the support and encouragement of both scientists and the public.

Comparisons with Other Analyses of UFO Data

It is most instructive to compare the UFOROM analyses with those of other organizations, particularly the National Sighting Research Center of New Jersey, headed by Paul Ferrughelli. The NSRC results have been reported in a series of publications, a recent one being the *National Sighting Yearbook 1992*. The NSRC collected UFO reports from newspaper clippings, UFO publications and MUFON case files and analyzed the raw UFO data. Because of the difference in data sources, a comparison with the UFOROM results will not be true. However, it is still interesting to compare the two studies.

The NSRC found a total of 197 UFO reports in 1992. This number was slightly less than that of Canada for the same year. Because of its larger population, it is likely that the USA had many, many more sightings that were never accessed through the NSRC's sampling technique.

The NSRC study revealed that there was no clear trend in the monthly distribution of UFO reports in the USA. Peaks were found in June and December. Grouping the American and Canadian studies together yields a monthly distribution with troughs in mid-summer and mid-winter, with slight variations month-to-month. It is possible to speculate that with adequate report sampling, there would be no monthly variation in the number of sightings, except for major flaps which would be more noticeable in an international survey. This is somewhat counter-intuitive and suggests that UFO reporting is independent of climate and seasonal variations. That is, people do not see more UFOs in summer because they spend more time outdoors during that season.

To be continued