

Ottawa can't cope with UFOs so it ignores them, forum told

By STEF DONEV
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The federal government might be ignoring unidentified flying objects because it doesn't want to admit there's nothing it can do about them, Canada's leading authority on the subject said last night.

"What government is willing to stick its neck out and admit aliens have direct access to our world and environment. It's much easier for the government to ignore them," said Arthur Bray, a former Canadian navy and air force pilot who is now manager of the occupational safety section of Canada Safety Council.

Bray and a. astronomy professor J. Allen Hynek, one of the leading UFO experts in the United States, spoke to several hundred people last night at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education about the need for UFO research in Canada. The lecture was sponsored by UFO Research Centre.

According to a 1974 Gallup poll, Bray said, 53 per cent of all adult Canadians believe in the existence of UFOs and 10 per cent of all adult Canadians claim they have seen them.

About 80 per cent of sightings turn out to be planes, satellites, planets or other natural phenomena, "But that still leaves 300,000 adult Canadians who have seen flying objects that can't be explained in natural terms," said Bray, a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the Canadian Aeronautics

and Space Institute and other organizations.

Bray and other UFO believers want Canada to take a lead in UFO research and to ask the United Nations to co-ordinate a world-wide study.

"National Research Canada is in charge of investigating UFO reports in Canada," Bray said. "It was given to them after National Defense determined, in 1968, that they were no threat to national security."

"Even though the government says it doesn't know what they are, they say they aren't a threat."

Bray also said that National Research Canada "doesn't check sighting reports; it ignores them. It classified them as non-meteoritic sightings."

Bray described such UFO sighting in Canada as the report of a group of nurses who saw a UFO from hospital windows in British Columbia in 1971, and the experience of Stephen Michalak at Falcon Lake, Man., in 1967. Bray said Michalak suffered extreme

burns and an illness that has still not been diagnosed.

Bray and Hynek, who worked on his country's UFO research project, also talked about the large number of responsible people who have seen UFOs — police officers, military men, pilots, clergymen, astronomers and others.

Hynek said the study of UFOs will be the major outstanding scientific problem of the last quarter of this century "as quantum mechanics, relativity and subatomic particle were major earlier efforts."

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