

Prince's wings clipped

VANCOUVER, Saturday (Reuter). Prince Charles, a Navy pilot, was grounded yesterday from piloting a flying saucer, but made up for it by speaking to a Canadian goose and a beaver.

It all happened in the surrealistic world of the \$US250 million (\$A343 million) Canada pavilion of the Expo 86 World Fair which Prince Charles and Princess Diana opened in Vancouver yesterday.

The Royal couple opened the fair itself, with its pavilions from 54 countries based mainly on communication and space themes, later in the day.

Prince Charles had been invited by designer Dale Kramer to pilot his remote-controlled flying saucer in the grand hall of the pavilion. The saucer-shaped vehicle flies on helium and is designed to eventually pick up logs and other goods.

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"We had expected the prince to pilot the vehicle from the ground and, as a pilot, he could have learnt to do it in 30 seconds," Mr Kramer said.

"At the last minute we were told by the fair authorities there was no time. I think Prince Charles was disappointed and I certainly was."