

Airport Management Council of Ontario

NOVEMBER 2017

Volume 6, Issue 4

The Airport Environment and You







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Working Birds Help Keep Airport Runways Clear

Article and photos by Heather Walters

Photo – Chris Pearce, Co-ordinator, (Airport Operations, Safety and Environmental) welcomed Rita Watermann, Bird Control Services Inc., to Hamilton Airport recently during Canadian Airports Safety Week. Part of airport safety is to keep runways clear of nuisance birds, a job that Watermann and her working birds take very seriously.

Rita Watermann and her working birds were greeting travellers at the Hamilton Airport recently. Situated just outside the main entrance to the busy airport, the business woman and her unlikely co-workers drew astonished looks and many curious questions from visitors passing through. Watermann was participating in Canadian Airports Safety Week, an initiative organized by the Canadian Airports Council (CAC) in collaboration with 29 participating airports across the country.

The idea of the weeklong event was to focus attention on key areas of airport industry safety. Worker safety, airport security, and environmental safety are all aspects that immediately come to mind when the question of airport safety arises. A lesser known aspect of providing a safe flying experience is one that Watermann and her company, Bird Control Services Inc., provides for Hamilton airport, as well as other industrial sites across Ontario.

On a regular basis, Watermann, or one of her associates, patrols the miles of landing areas and runways with the aerial assistance of her specially trained raptors. Usually working in pairs, her Harris Hawks are released to do a 'fly over' the area where nuisance bird populations have been observed. Groups of gulls, pigeons, starlings, or geese can cause a major problem for flights arriving and departing the airport. "Bird strikes" can cause damage to a plane or its engines so minimizing the number of birds congregating along runway areas is given high priority when it comes to airport safety.

The very presence of a flying raptor, even a well trained one, is enough to send most other birds out of the area – at least temporarily. That's why regular, highly visible visits by the hawks are so important. Using nature to control nature is an environmentally friendly way to solve a serious problem.

During Airport Safety week, Rita, along with two of her 'working girls' Phoebe, a 2 year old Gyr X Saker Falcon, and Gomez, a 4 year old Harris Hawk, welcomed travellers coming and going from the Hamilton Airport. Visitors and airport support staff were able to see the birds up close and personal and ask questions about their role at Hamilton Airport.

Watermann's company, Bird Control Services Inc., has been clearing airports and industrial sites of problematic birds for over 40 years. Originally started by her father, Ulrich Watermann, Rita now manages the bird and wildlife management business. Home base is a farm in Norfolk County, where at any given time, Rita will have up to 10 birds in various stages of training. She breeds most of her own working birds on site and trains them herself. "It just comes naturally to me" she stated. "I grew up around them, helping my dad with everything, and it just seemed inevitable that eventually this is what I would do."



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Traffic Up at Gore Bay-Manitoulin Airport

Original Article By: Tom Sasvari, The Manitoulin Expositor, Oct. 6, 2017

http://news.amco.on.ca/trafficupatGoreBayAirport

With the expanded activities created by the establishment of the Gore Bay Flying Club (GBFC), there has been a substantial increase in traffic and use of the Gore Bay-Manitoulin Airport this summer.



Andre Probst, a representative of the GBFC made a short presentation to members of the Central Manitoulin Finance and Economic Development Committee at a recent meeting. "My first item to discuss with you here tonight is on behalf of the Gore Bay-Manitoulin Airport and the Gore Bay Flying Club," noted airport Manager Robby Colwell. He noted that "air traffic-use of the airport has increased 67 percent in July/August compared to last year (in the same time period)."

"This is in large way due to the flying club being formed in the spring," said Mr. Probst. "On behalf of the club we would like to thank the municipality for your participation and support of the airport in the past and hopefully to continue in the future."

"The municipality does have the airport as a line item for support in our budget for next year. The amount we provide is not huge, but we do what we can to support the airport," said Central Manitoulin Councillor Alex Baran. "It is almost budget planning time for us, so this is good timing," he said.

"We've had a good year," Mr. Colwell told the Recorder. "I don't have all the statistics for the whole year set right now, but in July and August air traffic at the airport has gone up 67 percent from the same two month period in 2016."



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NOTL-TO Airline has Expansion Plans for Airport

Original Article By: Mike Zettel, NiagaraThisWeek.com, Oct. 17, 2017

http://news.amco.on.ca/NOTL-TOairlinehasexpansionplans

The commuter airline offering flights between Niagara and Toronto taking less than 15 minutes has announced some significant expansion plans for Niagara District Airport.

Chris Nowrouzi, chief executive officer of FlyGTA Airlines, said the service launched a little more than a year ago between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport on the Toronto Island has been extremely well received.

"It seems like it's going to be a long-term thing," Nowrouzi said.

The \$99 flight takes between 12-13 minutes and is the shortest commuter flight in North America, he added, explaining in an interview there's only one flight that beats it, a one-minute flight that crosses a river in England.

The eight-seat plans make four round trips between the two round trips daily during the week and two on weekends.

Now that it has established itself, FlyGTA has some long-term plans to stay. About three months ago it signed a 50-year lease. It will be constructing a 40,000 square-foot (3,600 squaremetre) maintenance hanger at the airport, with plans for it to open in November 2018.

Once it's finished, FlyGTA plans to construct another similarly sized facility.



Collingwood Mayor Hopes Another Owner Can Take Airport to New Heights

Original Article By: John Edwards, Collingwood Connection, Oct. 17, 2017

http://news.amco.on.ca/Collingwoodcouncilhopestosellairport

Collingwood's mayor believes the regional airport could have a brighter future under new ownership.

"The airport is on the cusp of greater things and exciting opportunities in the future and I believe there are others that are more knowledgeable about airports than the municipality to be able to do that," said Mayor Sandra Cooper.

Collingwood voted to declare the Collingwood Regional Airport surplus last month, after owning the facility since 1967.

Deputy Mayor Brian Saunderson called the airport is an economic hub, but said the town has funded losses of about \$2 million over the last decade and isn't in a position to spend the \$5-7 million needed to upgrade the facility.

"I think it's too much of an expense for our local residents," he said. Saunderson believes council is following through with the wishes of residents and the community strategic plan.







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Hamilton Airport More Than Doubles its Passenger Count

Original Article By: CBC News, Aug. 15, 2017

http://news.amco.on.ca/Hamiltonairportmorethandoublespassengercount



More than double the number of passengers flew into and out of Hamilton's airport in the first six months of this year, compared to the first half of 2016, according to data released by the airport Monday.

About 10 per cent of them are coming from Buffalo and upstate New York, according to the airport.

Through June this year, 269,901 passengers flew into and out of the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport. That's an increase of 127 per cent from last year,

when 118,890 passengers used the airport in the first six months.

The airport released the numbers in advance of a visit Tuesday afternoon from the federal transportation minister, Marc Garneau.

Passenger numbers at Hamilton's airport have long fallen short of expectations, dropping more than 100,000 since 2009. But the new discount airlines, and the bigger carriers trying to compete with them, appear to be turning that trend around.

The airport expects the number of passengers to reach 500,000 by the end of 2017. That would be much higher than passenger totals in the 300,000-350,000 range between 2013 and 2015.

Cargo traffic is up 19 per cent, too, making Hamilton what the airport calls "the centre of goods movement in Canada."

All that traffic has brought more than 100 new jobs to the airport, according to a release.



Bombardier to Partner With Airbus on CSeries Program

Original Article By: The Associated Press, CBC News, Oct. 16, 2017 http://news.amco.on.ca/bombardiertopartnerwithairbus

Bombardier Inc. announced Monday it has sold a majority stake in its CSeries passenger jet business to European aerospace giant Airbus for no cost.

The move comes after lacklustre sales and after the U.S. Commerce Department imposed harsh duties

on Bombardier, charging the Montreal-based company is selling the CSeries planes in the U.S. below cost and receiving government subsidies.

The Commerce Department recently announced it would impose an 80 per cent duty on top of duties of nearly 220 per cent. The case has been a win for U.S.-based rival Boeing.

Boeing has said it didn't move early enough against Airbus subsidies in the 1970s. Airbus is now a global giant.



The move by Bombardier could possibly circumvent duties being imposed on the CSeries. The CSeries headquarters will remain in the Montreal area, but a second assembly line for the 100-to 150-seat plane will be set up at Airbus's facility in Mobile, Ala.,

so the plane can be sold in the United States.

Airbus chief executive officer Tom Enders said an aircraft produced at a U.S. Airbus facility would not be subject to duties under the pending U.S. investigation.

Enders said the acquisition extends the company's product offering into the fast-growing 100- to 150-seat market sector. The current Airbus A320, a rival for the CSeries, is for 180 passengers or more and Airbus hasn't sold an A320 in three years.



Oshawa Mayor Calls on Feds to Reconsider Closing Oshawa Airport Customs House

Original Article By: Reka Szekely, Oshawa This Week, Oct. 5, 2017

http://news.amco.on.ca/Oshawamayorcallsonfedstoreconsider

Oshawa officials are fuming after the federal government announced the closure of the customs house at the Oshawa Executive Airport.

Mayor John Henry said the city was given next to no notice of the closure, with a letter sent to city officials on Sept. 8 from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) stating that the customs house would be closed on Sept. 29.

"The decision to close on Sept. 29 had already been made without CBSA or anyone talking to us at all," said Henry.

The mayor said the closure of the customs house affects the whole region and indeed regional chairman Roger Anderson has written a letter opposing the closure. Anderson points out traffic at the Oshawa airport is projected to grow from 61,500 to 102,000 aircraft movements per year over the next five years.

"The CBSA at the Oshawa Airport offers Durham a key differentiator to enable our readily-available access to international markets. With marine locations and warehouses located across all of our lakeshore communities, de-staffing the office affects the entire region," wrote Anderson.



SIXTH FOR THE 6IX:

Billy Bishop Airport Ranked One of the World's Best Airports in Condé Nast Traveler 2017 Readers' Choice Awards

> Original Article By: PR Newswire, MarketsInsider, Oct. 19, 2017

http://news.amco.on.ca/BBTCArankedoneoftheworldsbestairports

For the second consecutive year, Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (Billy Bishop Airport) has been named one of the best airports in the world in the Condé Nast Traveler 2017 Readers' Choice Awards, the premier international travel industry awards voted on by more than 300,000 travellers around the world. Billy Bishop Airport was ranked sixth in a Top 10 list of global airports. Other winners announced earlier today by Condé Nast Traveler include Singapore (SIN), Seoul, South Korea (ICN), and Doha, Qatar (DOH), with Billy Bishop Airport (YTZ) as the only airport in Canada to be recognized in the category.



Thunder Bay Airport to Expand Departure Lounge

Original Article By: Jeff Walters, CBC News, Sept. 28, 2017 http://news.amco.on.ca/thunderbaytobeginexpansion

The challenge of finding a place to sit at the Thunder Bay Airport during peak departure times will soon be a problem of the past.

The airport will undergo a major renovation, starting this October, to increase the amount of space available by nearly fifty percent.

"For anybody who's ever come through at six o'clock in the morning and had trouble finding a place to stand, never mind sit, we're going to start correcting that problem," said Ed Schmidtke, the airport's President and CEO.

To get more floor space, the airport moved Transport Canada offices from the second floor to the third floor of the main terminal building. That freed up 4,500 square feet of space. 3,300 sq. feet will be allocated to the departures area, with the remaining 1,200 sq. feet making the arrivals area more spacious.

The renovations are the first major work done to the terminal since its construction in 1994.

'We're Poised for Growth': London International Airport Marks Spike in Passengers, Looks to Add Direct Flights

Original Article By: Hala Ghonaim, CBC News, Oct. 10, 2017 http://news.amco.on.ca/londonairportpoisedforgrowth

London's International Airport is marking a spike in annual passenger numbers after offering more direct flights in recent years, with others on the horizon.

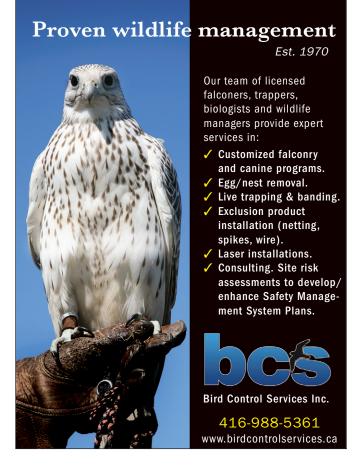
Over the last decade, annual passenger numbers have more than doubled, jumping from 250,000 to 550,000 – with an eight per cent increase every year.

So far this summer, Mike Seabrook, president and CEO of London's airport, has noticed a two per cent jump, with airlines offering bigger aircrafts to accommodate for increasing numbers.

"It's good growth because air travel is growing," he said. "There's a real push to get air travel more economically affordable and what that has caused is stimulation in the whole market."

Currently the airport has seven carriers – a big jump from two in 2011 – including Air Canada, WestJet and seasonal travel through Air Transat and Sunwing Vacations.





Greater Sudbury Airport Taking Off, CEO Says

Original Article By: Jim Moodie, The Sudbury Star, Nov. 17, 2017 http://news.amco.on.ca/greatersudburyairportakesoff

Business has been taking off at Greater Sudbury Airport.

"You can see from the most recent travel stats that we're up 16.5 per cent over last year," airport CEO Todd Tripp told a Chamber of Commerce audience on Thursday. "We estimate we're going to be at 265,000 people this year, and that's tremendous for a small airport."

Tripp, who was hired a little more than a year ago, has experience with airstrips big and small.

Prior to coming to Sudbury, the aviation-industry veteran was director of apron operations at Pearson International. But he has also worked at airports in Fort St. John and Sioux Lookout.

Tripp said his goal coming to Sudbury was to "grow the airport," although he gave his predecessor credit for starting that process.

"The table was set for me when I came in," he said. "Bob Johnston did an excellent job."

Tripp said a plan to welcome WestJet back to Sudbury was already in the works before he assumed the role of CFO.

The airline had stopped flying out of Sudbury in 2001, but began offering daily flights again to Toronto, through its regional carrier WestJet Encore, this past February.

"A lot of our growth has been a result of the carrier changes we had," said Tripp.

WestJet started with a single flight a day, and is now up to three flights per day, said the CEO.

Meanwhile Air Canada "has upsized their aircraft" to accommodate more passengers, and adjusted their schedule so that two flights leave each morning -- meaning travellers can "get to Toronto and be back home the same night."

Porter Airlines, for their part, has "shown an interest in Sudbury and improved their service and reliability," he said. And regional flyer Bearskin "is working with us to have extra aircraft using the Sudbury airport."





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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Up Next at AMCO

I'd like to begin by thanking all of our attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors who joined us for the 32nd Annual Convention and Trade Show hosted by the Region of Waterloo International Airport. This year's convention was a massive success and I hope those who could not join us this year will be in Kenora for the 33rd Annual Convention next October. I'd also like to congratulate our new Northeast Regional Director, Bryan Avery, and Northwest Regional Director, Ryan Brading, who were elected to our Board of Directors at the 32nd AGM and thank Robert Tyrer, and Michael Zroback, for their years of service on the AMCO Board of Directors.

As we look to 2018 AMCO has a number of events and opportunities planned throughout the year. As always our convention and tradeshow will be a world class event with our host airport, Kenora, working hard to present a unique and exciting event. Our workshop this year will be hosted by the Niagara District Airport and immediately follow the IAAE Canada's FOAM conference for increased networking opportunities. We are also planning to host two small airport and aerodrome working group round tables in early spring to facilitate conversation among our members in a setting unique to their operations.

AMCO will continue to monitor changes in regulations, including TALPA, and participate in a number of advisory councils throughout the New Year. AMCO will be attending the Canadian Aviation Safety Officer Partnership (CASOP) fall session in Montreal and we encourage all our airport members to attend future CASOP sessions. AMCO will also be maintaining its seat on the Nav Canada Advisory Committee with past president, Stephen Wilcox attending on behalf of AMCO.

AMCO also recently unveiled our new Ambassador Program. Designed with our small airport and aerodrome members in mind, we developed an Airports Value 101 PowerPoint and brochure for airports to use in conjunction with their own materials when presenting to councils, airport commissions, etc. As airport operators, our members see the value in maintaining a robust airport network and treating small and regional airports as critical infrastructure. As part of our commitment to provide advocacy for Ontario's airports and aerodromes you may now request AMCO's staff and board to advocate alongside you at your local level; including speaking with your governance organizations and writing letters of support. For more information on the program please contact the AMCO offices.

We continue to encourage members to take part in the AMCO Aviation General Liability program, administered through business member The Magnes Group. Benefits include increased coverages and purchasing power. Contact the AMCO offices or The Magnes Group directly to learn how to the program can benefit your airport or aerodrome.

Warm Regards,

Aaron Lougheed

Executive Director, AMCO



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Contributions should be addressed to: **Airport Management Council of Ontario** 5-50 Terminal St. North Bay, ON P1B 8G2 amco@amco.on.ca

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