

Airport Management Council of Ontario

Jan/Feb 2022

Volume 11, Issue 1

The Airport Environment and You







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From the Desk of the CEO

Up Next at AMCO

Love is in the air! With Valentine's Day right around the corner Scotty and I are looking forward to filling out his dinosaur cards for all his little friends. They say fun things like "You're ROAR-some!" It's a nice time of year to encourage one another as the winter can seem to drag on.

AMCO is encouraged by the commitment of our members to the association and to one another. We enjoy meeting with each of our airport members at our regional meetings. It is a great way for us to hear your concerns, celebrate your wins, and connect with one another. We appreciate the time everyone takes to attend these sessions.

AMCO is also encouraged by the positive feedback from members we received from our Pre-Budget Consultation Submission to the Federal Finance Committee. We were able to submit our recommendations on four topics including ACAP, RATI, Rent Relief and CBSA. We know that other associations were submitting documents with similar themes, and we are hopeful that these recommendations will be taken into consideration.

Transport Canada is also surveying associations and airports about the ACAP program. They are doing an evaluation of the program overall, its value and its effectiveness. We are encouraged that they are taking the time to listen to our opinions and concerns and look forward to improvements being made in this program.

Finally, AMCO is encouraged by the work being done with HM Aero to complete a study that we can use to advocate for funding and programs for Ontario's Airports. We plan to use this document when approaching both federal and provincial levels of government. With a provincial election coming up we feel this study is very timely, and request that everyone please fill out the survey that was recently sent to you.

At this time I would also like to introduce AMCO's new staff members. We welcome Natalia Boudinov as our new Manager of Airport Affairs and Denise Antos as our new Administrative Assistant. It is wonderful to have a great new team in place and look forward to all of the wonderful things we can do for Ontario's Airports.

Please let us know how you are encouraged in this winter season and what we can do for you, our members.

Sincerely,

Laura McNeice CEO, AMCO

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IATA Partners with Carleton University offering academic program to bridge gap between aviation industry and policy makers

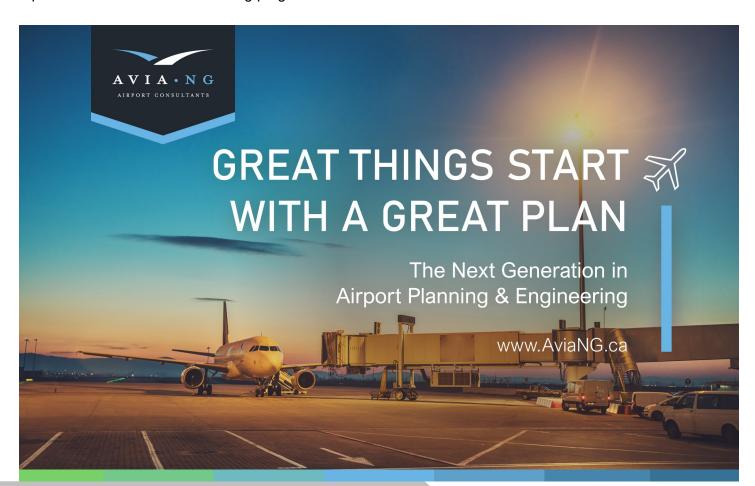
Original Article by Canadian Aviation News, Feb. 2, 2022 For full article click here

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is partnering with Carleton University's School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) in Ottawa, Canada, to launch the Professional Certificate in Air Transport Principles and Policy. The online, instructor-led program is aimed at both public policy makers and aviation professionals and will be delivered through the school's Transportation Policy and Innovation Centre (TPIC).

The objective is to provide aviation and public sector professionals with a better understanding of the complexity of both the air transport sector and the public policy-making process. With this enhanced knowledge, aviation professionals will gain important insights into government policy-making, while public sector employees will obtain greater clarity into how the aviation industry operates and how their decisions affect this important sector.

The partnership combines IATA's global reach with one of Canada's leading academic institutions. It is targeted at public sector and air transportation professionals from around the world, enhancing workforce skills to meet the aviation industry's global demand.

With its unique focus on policy, the program will position Carleton on the world stage for civil aviation training and professional development. The university joins a list of six existing IATA Academic Partners, all offering specialized aviation related training programs.



Lynx Air to serve five Canadian destinations

Original Article by David Casey, routesonline.com, Jan. 20, 2022 For full article click here

Canada's newest ULCC will launch commercial flights in April with tickets now on sale for seven domestic routes across the country.

The airline, led by former Tigerair Australia CEO Merren McArthur, will initially operate a fleet of three Boeing 737-8 from Calgary International (YYC).

From the Alberta base, the startup intends to serve Kelowna (YLW), Toronto Pearson (YYZ), Vancouver (YVR) and Winnipeg (YWG). It will also fly to Kelowna, Toronto and Winnipeg from YVR.

Lynx was previously known as Enerjet, a charter airline based in Calgary that specialized in flying oil-sands workers to job sites in Alberta, as well as undertaking contracts for tour operators.

However, in late 2018 it announced plans to transform itself into a ULCC, backed by Canadian investors and private equity firm Indigo Partners, which is behind success stories such as Frontier Airlines and Wizz Air.

Lynx has firm orders and lease agreements in place for 46 Boeing 737 MAX family aircraft over the next seven years. The ULCC expects to have six in its fleet by the end of 2022.

much bigger aircraft."

The plight of the Pembroke and Area Airport in particular is nothing new to county council, and

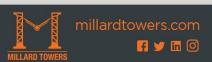
Transborder routes to the US would come at a later stage.



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County of Renfrew expresses support for Pembroke and Arnprior airports

Original Article by Debbi Christinck, Toronto Star, Feb. 2, 2022 For full article click here

Pembroke – The County of Renfrew is expressing support for both the Pembroke and Arnprior airports, but just what this support will lead to in terms of other levels of government providing funding remains to be seen.

"I think it is very important we support these two airports," North Algona Wilberforce Mayor James Brose said during Renfrew County council last Wednesday. "The Pembroke and Area Airport in particular has an extra long runway so it can handle much bigger aircraft."

particular is nothing new to county council, and Allen Wren, a member of Laurentian Valley council known for his advocacy for the airport, wrote council asking for more support. He pointed out having a letter of support showing the importance of the airport to the county at large is crucial. He highlighted the fact the airport is the county's only certified airport with a 5,000-foot runway which supports commercial and military aircraft. As well, he pointed out the airport is part of the emergency plans for local hospitals and supports the County of Renfrew and City of Pembroke emergency services and several provincial services that are important to our region —forest firefighting, wildlife management, search and rescue, police surveillance, etc. — use the Pembroke & Area Airport to the benefit of all residents of the county.

Mr. Wren suggested a letter of support should also note, "the County of Renfrew encourages provincial and federal financial support to ensure the airport improvements necessary to sustain this important asset in the region."







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New Al technology expected to move people faster through **Pearson Airport in Mississauga**

Original Article by Declan Finucane, insauga.com, Dec. 6, 2021 For full article click here

Leading-edge technology now being used at Pearson Airport in Mississauga is expected to help airport officials move travellers along more quickly.

A first of its kind at any Canadian airport, new 3D passenger tracking sensors and software at Pearson customs and security screening facilities will measure the wait times, line lengths, passenger behaviour and social distancing of international travellers connecting onward to other Canadian destinations.

Installed by Swiss technology developer Xovis, the Passenger Flow Management System uses artificial intelligence sensor technology to get its readings, and it has been used at Pearson since 2019 in the check-in area, according to British-based aviation website Passenger Terminal Today.

Buoyed by its success there, airport officials decided to expand its use.

After receiving data from the sensors, the system provides airport officials with valuable performance indicators such as predictive wait times for specific passenger groups, process times and passenger throughput. The technology measures number of travellers in specific areas of the airport, helping to prevent bottleneck delays. It does not capture images of any passengers.

Xovis North America managing director Cody Shulman said the system will help "optimize the trial-and-error reconfiguration process, the utilization of space and the real-time redeployment of personnel, making for a better passenger journey."

Airport ended 2021 on strong financials Canadian airports not concerned about

Original Article by Merna Emara, Fort Frances Times, Jan. 5, 2022 For full article click here

Despite COVID-19, the Fort Frances airport had a strong financial year due to the fire season and all the extra aircraft movement.

Tom Batiuk, airport supervisor, said aircraft movement spiked the most during June and July when firefighters were deployed nationally and internationally to help extinguish fires.

The airport fuel sale report states that fuel sales in July 2021 were \$86,299 – the highest month in the last nine years. In 2021, the airport sold 287,105 litres of fuel. However, the number of flights was much lower, with Bearskin Airlines only administering 67 flights in 2021, as compared to 216 in 2020 and 724 in 2019.

"We do not service any remote first nations communities out of Fort Frances," Batiuk said in an email to the Times. "All that traffic is based in Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, and Pickle Lake airports. We have in the past however opened to receiving displaced residents due to extreme weather events in the past based on need. That is difficult to predict, however."

Canadian airports not concerned about 5G rollout affecting flights

Original Article by Ian Duffy, Global News, Jan. 20, 2022 For full article click here

While consumers are thrilled about the rollout of 5G technology, some airlines in the United States aren't jumping for joy, with various flights cancelled across the country due to concerns about the latest mobile network technology.

But as companies like AT&T and Verizon clash with airlines in the U.S., here north of the border, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the Radio Advisory Board of Canada have already put in mitigating safeguards against these concerns according to SaskTel External Communications Manager, Greg Jacobs.

"Earlier this year they actually implemented interim guidelines that would prevent any Canadian wireless service provider from using 3500 megahertz spectrum within a particular area of the airport."

In Canada, the 5G rollout strategy is a collaborative effort between multiple industries. "They're working in tandem with Transport Canada to mitigate any safety concerns in the short term. So what they've done is they've put in place some exclusion or restricted areas where you can't put in 5G towers so they don't interfere with aircrafts which are landing," said Reves.

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Daniel-Robert Gooch is leaving his position as President of the Canadian Airport Council where he has served for the past 16 years. We would like to wish him all the best in his new chapter!

AMCO would like to congratulate

Monette Pasher who has been
appointed as an interim president of the
CAC!

North Bay airport nets \$4.4M for facility upgrades

Original Article by Lindsay Kelly, Northern Ontario Business, Jan. 28, 2022 For full article click here

Jack Garland Airport in North Bay has received \$4.4 million in funding for a trio of projects expected to help maintain essential services to the area. Of the funding, the largest chunk — \$3.4 million — will go toward rehabilitation work on taxiways H and G and apron 2. Another \$800,000 will be used to install a high-intensity approach system on runway 8. The final \$122,000 will cover the cost of replacing a regulator transformer assembly.

The funds come from the federal Transportation Ministry's Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP), which helps community airports cover the costs of replacing or upgrading essential infrastructure. Nipissing-Timiskaming MP Anthony Rota, who made the announcement virtually on Jan. 28, noted how important the airport is to the region, because of its role in serving not only residents accessing personal travel, but also transportation services for business, health care, social services, and resource development companies.

Airport manager Jack Santerre said the funding is "critical" to helping the airport maintain its infrastructure, as well as support the more than 500 jobs maintained by the local aviation industry. He expects the three projects to go out to tender in February and the contracts to be awarded in March. Construction on all three projects should begin this summer, he said, and will wrap up by September.

A year ago, the airport was at risk of closing because of an escalating deficit due to low traffic numbers. North Bay council agreed to temporarily cover the airport's basic running costs, to the tune of \$800,000, to keep the facility open. But, as North Bay Mayor Al McDonald proudly noted, because airport staff made adjustments to their operating costs, they didn't need to tap into the emergency fund after all.

Santerre said airport staff is continuously looking at ways to improve the user experience, which includes bringing an additional carrier into the airport.



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Air service to Toronto returns to Kingston airport

Original Article by Paul Soucy, Global News Jan. 11, 2022 For full article click here

The City of Kingston has once again partnered with Toronto-based airline FLYGTA. The two held a partnership for a short time in 2020 for service to Toronto's Billy Bishop airport. Service to YGK airport will begin on Jan. 31.

"We are thrilled to be landing at Kingston Airport once again and look forward to expanding our service in the coming months," said Chris Nowrouzi, CEO of FLYGTA Group.

FLYGTA serves a long list of cities throughout North and South America as well as Europe. According to FLYGTA's website, a one-way flight from Kingston to Billy Bishop Airport would cost roughly \$90.

This is the second airline to ink a deal with Kingston's airport in as many months. In December 2021, the city announced a partnership with PASCAN Aviation.

New owner developing vision for Billy Bishop, Wiarton-Keppel airports

Original Article by Denis Langlois, The Sun Times
Dec. 21, 2021
For full article click here

The new owner of the Owen Sound Billy Bishop and Wiarton-Keppel airports says he sees great potential in the two facilities, but it will likely be some time before major changes take place at the formerly municipally owned sites.

Clayton Smith, who purchased Owen Sound's 28-year-old regional aerodrome for \$1.5 million Dec. 10 and Georgian Bluffs' 73-year-old registered international airport for \$2.6 million a week later, said his vision for the facilities remains unclear at this point.

"It takes a bit of time to figure out the right path to go down and we're certainly started in that thought and that discussion process now," the Caledon-raised real estate broker said in an interview.

He said he wants to speak with municipal officials and members of the local aviation community before finalizing any plans.





Timmins' stratospheric balloon base could be getting bigger

Original Article by Maija Hoggett, Northern Ontario Business, Jan. 18, 2022 For full article click here

City council received an update on plans to expand the Canadian Space Agency Stratospheric Balloon Base at the Timmins Victor M. Power Airport during Tuesday's meeting.

"(City of Timmins' CAO) Dave Landers, (City of Timmins' manager of purchasing and fleet) Gord Deacon and I spoke to some of the folks with the Canadian Space Agency responsible for the balloon launches," said Airport Manager Dave Dayment.

"They wanted to know if the city is interested in an expansion of the balloon base, which is at the airport. They wanted to gauge our interest in moving forward with a new building.

"So, at that time we had Rivard Engineering hired and they dealt directly with the Space Agency, to put their wish list together and see a Class D estimate on what an expansion would entail.

RCAF investigates incident at Thunder Bay Airport

Original Article by TBnewsWatch.com, Canadian Aviation News, Feb. 1, 2022 For full article click here

THUNDER BAY — The Royal Canadian Air Force says it has launched an investigation into Monday's incident at Thunder Bay Airport that saw a passenger aircraft slide off the runway.

All three RCAF personnel on board walked away without injury but were assessed at the scene by paramedics.

The air force says the plane was a King Air 350 turboprop operated by the RCAF. A witness described seeing the plane approaching the airport from the east, and said it didn't sound normal. The person said the plane touched down hard on the runway, bounced, then spun around before coming to rest in the snow. The aircraft sustained extensive damage, including to its tail and wings. A spokesperson at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa said Tuesday that no further details will be provided until the investigation is concluded. Thunder Bay Airport CEO Ed Schmidtke said the airport will have no further comment as the incident is the subject of a DND investigation.

Flair Airlines expanding fleet, jobs, and service to new airports

Original Article by Nicole Lampa, CTV News Kitchener, Dec. 15, 2022

For full article click here

KITCHENER - Flair Airlines has outlined plans to more than double its current fleet to 30 aircraft by mid-2023, and has an ambitious goal to have a fleet of 50 by 2025.

The low-fare airline said it will be leasing an additional 14 Boeing 737 Max 8 aircrafts. It currently has a dozen aircraft in service, and will have a 20 by next summer.

"With our substantial fleet expansion, Canadian travellers can continue to benefit from Flair's eye-popping fares and increased service from existing and new airports in our network across Canada, the United States and Mexico," said Stephen Jones, CEO of Flair Airlines, in a news release.

Flair currently flies to 32 locations in Canada and the U.S., with Mexico destinations being added in February. During a conference call, Jones also announced the expansion comes with new airports being serviced as well as a thousand new jobs. The locations and positions will not be announced until early 2022.

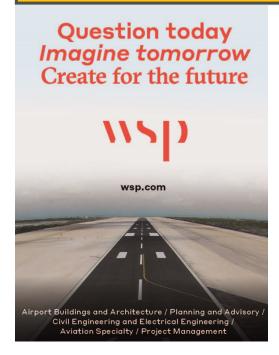
However, Jones noted they will need about 24 flight attendants, 12 pilots per aircraft, and will need to fill associated positions to help with service in airports and maintenance.

"The good news for Kitchener-Waterloo is that it continues to perform very well for us," said Jones about Flair's service at the Region of Waterloo International Airport. "We think it's one of our strongest performers and we will pay the good performance."

Jones suggested Flair's partnership with the Waterloo Region airport is considered a strong model for ultralow cost carriers.

Flair's Chief Commercial Officer chimed in and said "we're happy to work the airport and the terminal expansion there so the infrastructure is ready for us to continue growing at the airport."

AMCO would like to congratulate **Michael Seabrook** on his retirement from London International Airport and wish him all the best on his next adventure!







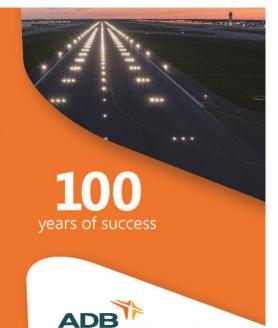
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Workaround options authorized as airport hangar project hits a snag

Original Article by Tyler Kula, The Observer, Dec. 16, 2021 For full article click here

Supply chain problems and a winter construction schedule have complicated Sarnia's shot at building a new hangar at the city's airport, the city's economic development director says. The estimated \$730,000 project was one of the items for which the city received \$1.9 million in Regional Air Transportation Initiative funding from FedDev Ontario in August, said Kelly Provost.

Cost estimates for building the hangar – one in a suite of purchases designed to make the airport more attractive to restarting scheduled airline services in the aftermath of Air Canada ending its flights there in 2020 – were based on similar projects in other communities in 2020, she said.

But of the four bids that came in by the Nov. 24 deadline, the cheapest was more than \$1.8 million – and more than double the available funding, city officials said. None of the bidders – the highest bid was \$3.4 million – said they'd be able to complete the work by the program deadline of March 31, 2022, Provost said. If the money for the hangar project isn't spent by then, it's gone, she said, but the city isn't giving up. Recently council authorized a number of options, hinging on what can be worked out with FedDev Ontario, so staff can act quickly and not lose the funding.

"We're doing everything we can possible to ensure those funds are retained in the community," Provost said. Applications have been made to perhaps extend the deadline, she said, or change the scope of the project. The city could also reallocate the funds to other airport investments.

One option is to construct a hangar building without a door large enough for an airplane to fit through and use that building instead to store equipment, like a de-icer, belt loader and other purchases made with the grant money to make the airport more attractive for scheduled service resumption, Provost said.

Local airport important for emergency services

Original Article by William McGinn, The Lindsay Advocate, Dec. 30, 2021

For full article click here

Landing planes is a job not just for pilots but for the on-the-ground support, too. That's where Kawartha Lakes Municipal Airport manager, Malcolm Cook, comes in.

That starts with ensuring there's nothing like snow, rocks or animals that would trip up the wheels of the planes that want to land. Sometimes wildlife needs to be scared off, most commonly birds. It's an important aspect of the job, considering lives can easily end up on the line, given this is the only facility in Kawartha Lakes available for Ornge medical evacuations and is constantly used for life-saving missions.

Cook began working at the airport in 2017 shortly after graduating from Seneca College's flight program. He took over as manager a year later. He started off in operations such as cutting grass, helping pilots with fueling and plowing snow. A lot of that he still does, in addition to working communications, giving advisories, assisting in mechanical failures and managing budgets.

The airport manager said it's a good feeling when he gets to use his skills (and tools) to provide aid to stranded pilots or after a successful response to an emergency. He works for the Loomex group, a third-party contractor hired by the city who also manages Peterborough's airport. Their calling list keeps Cook and others on their toes to be prepared to manage the port at any time of day.

Kawartha Lakes Municipal Airport can handle planes which carry up to 11 passengers, which includes the airport's "critical aircraft," like the Beechcraft B200 Super King Air which can carry up to nine. The airport also sees C-130 Hercules planes a couple times a month, which can carry up to 80 passengers, using the runway for touch-and-go training exercises — but they do not actually stop and land. Cook hinted that a new "crosswind runway" will soon be coming to the airport, which will give pilots more safe choices for landing.



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Sault Ste. Marie Airport