

Representing Ontario's Airports





The Airport Environment and You

From the Desk of the CEO

Up Next at AMCO

My son, Scotty, loves to ask me about my day because I’ve always asked about his. I recently told him that I was receiving a lot of emails because we are asking the government to do something for airports (or as we call it – advocating!) After much discussion he asked if they did what we were asking. I replied, “No” and he said, “Well, maybe tomorrow!” He had such optimism for me, and for our industry, and it sparks a renewed sense of ability and hope that we, AMCO, can achieve positive improvements for Ontario’s airports.

We have just finished our 38th Annual Convention and Trade Show in Thunder Bay. It was a great time to meet together with industry professionals and colleagues and really refresh our perspectives. There were so many wonderful speakers sharing knowledge and a fantastic trade show with exhibitors from across many fields who provide services to the airport industry. The ability to meet together, to share, and to learn from one another cements the optimism we should feel as an industry.

Of course, Convention doesn’t happen without sponsors. I would like to thank our Presenting Sponsor Avia NG for their continued support of this event. I would also like to thank Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, NAV CANADA, Precise ParkLink, Tradewind Scientific, ADB Safegate, Airlines Pavement Markings Inc., Tetra Tech, Aebi Schmidt, Team Eagle, Octant Aviation and Porter Airlines. Thanks also goes to Acclivix, Aviation Ground Fueling Technologies, Millard Towers and all of our Student Sponsors and Golf Hole Sponsors. A big thank you also goes to the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission for their support of this event.

In case you were not in attendance, and you missed the big announcement, we look forward to seeing you next year in London, Ontario!

As we begin to wind down 2023, we begin to gear up for another great year. With new opportunities for sustaining memberships, new sponsorships, and a renewed focus on what is most important with Ontario’s airport industry, it is certainly an exciting time for the association. Having just begun our strategic planning for our next five year plan, there is great enthusiasm for what’s to come.

There are many positive stories from airports around Ontario in the following pages of this issue. It’s exciting to see all the good news happening out there. Here at AMCO we will keep optimistically working towards making a positive impact for our members.

Enjoy the fall!

Sincerely,

Laura McNeice
CEO, AMCO

Features

Huronia Airport has evolved into a soaring success.....3

Air travel options in the northeast remain limited long after pandemic restrictions lifted.....4

Dryden airport gets provincial cash infusion.....5

Residents test their strength at Thunder Bay Airport.....5

Passenger travel through Hamilton expected to be strong, despite impending loss of Swoop.....6

Billy Bishop Airport is a crucial asset for Toronto’s future..... 7

Airport event a runaway success8

Windsor Airport hosting 95th landmark anniversary.....8

New opportunities take off at Parry Sound Municipal Airport with runway expansion.....9

Canadian air travel has faced significant challenges, including staffing and delays. Here’s how to fix it..... 10

Brockton calls for a report on possible sale of Saugeen Municipal Airport.....10

Huronia Airport has evolved into a soaring success

Original Article by Cynthia McQueen, Midland Today, Aug 26, 2023

[For full article click here](#)

The Huronia Airport has taken off over the years, and it hopes to put wind beneath the wings of young aviators.

...

Thanks to improvements made during the pandemic, and over the years, the Huronia Airport has seen a lift-off in overall traffic. The airport evolved from a grass strip in the 1960s to a paved 4,000-foot runway in the late 1970s. "Paving the runway got us a fair bit more traffic," says Duffy.

In 1994, the current terminal replaced what looked more like a small home with a brick-and-mortar building. Originally, the airport was essentially an open field used as a landing strip with little to indicate it was an airport. The traffic coming through the landing strip then was mostly for local farmers and small businesses, according to Duffy. The current airport houses an internationally acclaimed airplane kit manufacturer, Zenair Ltd., and a flight school for ultralight aircraft, XStream Flight School.

Some recent improvements including an upgrade to the ground fuelling system in January 2021 provided relief for aviators during the pandemic. "We are a base for search and rescue operations," says Duffy. "Thankfully, we haven't seen so many this year. In past years, the rescue missions will fly out of Trenton and fuel here while they're searching the bay." Thanks to a \$310,000 federal funding infusion received in August last year, the airport updated its runway lighting and maintained its GPS landing system, ensuring it can continue to offer services for local pilots and valuable refuelling stops during rescue missions.

"We can get a lot of medevac flights in and out, depending on the wind and if they can land at the hospital," explains Duffy, stressing the importance of the small airport as a hub for lifesaving work in the area.

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Air travel options in the northeast remain limited long after pandemic restrictions lifted

Original Article by CBC News, Aug 25, 2023
For full article click here

Airports in northeastern Ontario say summer air travel this year has been slower than expected.

"Before the summer schedule began, we had anticipated our recovery to continue with additional flights coming back to our schedule and we did see that the one flight from Air Canada came back in July," said Giovanna Verrilli, president and CEO of the Greater Sudbury Airport.

However, that flight from Sudbury to Toronto was short-lived and is already off the schedule.

Although airlines are not bringing in additional flights, Verrilli said, larger aircraft are coming to the facility, which means more seats available to passengers.

"Flights are full, which is good news," she said. "So that combined allows us to welcome our passengers here on a daily basis."

However, said she understands "there is a high degree of frustration" among travellers due to the lack of flight options.

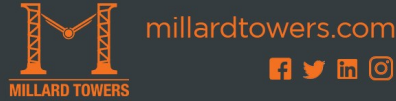
She said the airport meets with airlines on a regular basis to reiterate the needs of the airport and the community it serves.



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Dryden airport gets provincial cash infusion

Original Article by Katie Nicholls, NWO NewsWatch, Aug 15, 2023
For full article click here

The regional airport is getting cash from the province to aid in infrastructure improvements.

MPP Greg Rickford made the announcement today at the Dryden Regional Airport of the \$163,000 in funding from the Ford government.

The money will be used for a number of projects including refinishing the flooring, renovating public washrooms in the terminal building and improving the airport's mechanical systems, according to Dryden Mayor Jack Harrison.

According to the province's release, the NOHFC has contributed more than \$685 million in 5,656 projects in Northern Ontario over the past five years.

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Residents test their strength at the Thunder Bay Airport

Original Article by Justin Hardy, TB NewsWatch, Sept 23, 2023
For full article click here

Residents showed off their strength and teamwork on Saturday as 14 groups attempted to pull a 26,000-pound airplane along the tarmac, the ultimate tug-of-war challenge. The United Way of Thunder Bay and Wasaya Airways brought back the annual Wasaya-United Way Plane Pull which saw teams compete for the fastest time to pull an airplane down the tarmac, all for a good cause. [...]

This year's Plane Pull didn't really have a fundraising goal, but the event usually raises around \$15,000 to \$20,000.

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Passenger travel through Hamilton expected to be strong, despite impending loss of Swoop

Original Article by Don Mitchell, Global News, Sept. 11, 2023

For full article click [here](#)

Despite enjoying a busy year for passenger travel, executives with Hamilton's airport believe the mothballing of budget airline Swoop will present some challenges in the fall.

John C. Munro International is predicting just over 825,000 travellers will pass through gates in 2023, a year-to-year increase of more than 20 per cent.

That's comparable to the 955,000 that checked in during 2019 — the highest seen since 2017.

But with Swoop shutting down Oct. 28, airport CEO Kathy Puckering says the airport will see the elimination of some low-cost leisure fares, thus a loss of flyers who gravitated to the cheap offerings.

"We are in a little bit of a holding pattern for the next six months as Swoop does something that is very hard to do ... winding down an airline and consolidating it into another business as they deal with labour shortages," Puckering explained.

The outgoing airline, to be consolidated into parent company Westjet, is also expected to contribute to a reduction in some domestic flights to and from Hamilton as well.

Billy Bishop Airport is a crucial asset for Toronto's future

Original Publication by Richard Florida, Toronto Star, Sept 23, 2023

For more details click here

Toronto's downtown snapped back to life during this year's film festival as celebrities and film industry types streamed into the city. And Toronto's downtown airport was a key conduit for a good deal of that traffic.

"I really like the Billy Bishop Airport," says actor Ethan Hawke. "I have so many great memories of just sitting on that little island and watching Toronto wake up as I fly away and fly back."

Island airport is a unique and powerful economic asset for Toronto — especially its downtown, which is still reeling from the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Airports drive regional innovation and prosperity by facilitating the flow of people and ideas across places. Billy Bishop Airport brings 2.8 million of people annually from 20 leading cities across North America including New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Boston, Montreal, and Ottawa into the very heart of Toronto's financial, entertainment, and corporate complex.

This is especially critical now because Toronto's downtown was amongst the hardest hit by the shift to remote work. It ranks 58th of 62 North American cities on an index of downtown recovery created by my colleagues at the University of Toronto's School of Cities. Based on cellphone tracking data, activity in downtown Toronto had recovered to just 42 per cent of its pre-pandemic levels, significantly behind New York, where activity had rebounded to 67 per cent. Toronto lagged every other Canadian city, especially nearby Mississauga, where activity had recovered to 81 per cent.

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Airport event a runaway success

Original Publication by Jan Murphy,
Kingston Whig-Standard, Sept 25, 2023
[For more details click here](#)

Thanks to a (Herc)ulean effort, thousands of residents got a rare opportunity at Norman Rogers Airport on Saturday.

The City of Kingston and Canadian Forces Bases Kingston and Trenton combined forces to present the second annual Wheels on the Runway event, in support of the United Way of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington's campaign. [...]

"I think it's a unique opportunity where unless you're flying on a passenger plane, you're not allowed to go out on the apron of the airport," Aron Winterstein, airport manager at Norman Rogers, said as the sun shone down on a warm morning.

Windsor Airport hosting 95th landmark anniversary event

Original Publication by Aaron Mahoney, iHeart Radio
Sept 8, 2023
[For more details click here](#)

A significant milestone being celebrated at Windsor International Airport.

Airport officials are marking the 95th year in business on the land located on County Road 42 once owned by Hiram Walker on Friday afternoon.

A small gathering will take place with Windsor Airport partners and staff from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Officials say the event will include tours of AAR Aircraft Services Windsor and the Canadian Historical Museum, both located on Airport property.

Speaking on AM800's The Morning Drive, Windsor Airport CEO Mark Galvin says back in 1928 it was opened and 95 years is a milestone worth celebrating.

New opportunities take off at Parry Sound Municipal Airport with runway expansion

Original Publication by Taylor Clark, Parry Sound North Star, Sept 18, 2023
For more details click here

Parry Sound Area Municipal Airport not only celebrated a successful 20th annual Fly-In Drive-In on Sept. 9 but officially reopened its long-awaited renovated runway.

“The airport and business park have truly become a great economic hub for the region we can all be proud of,” said airport commission chair Ingrid Mueller.

Former Premier Bill Davis officially opened the airport in 1979 with a 3,000-foot paved runway and a single trailer for a terminal. Another 1,000 feet was included in 1985, and the entirety was resurfaced in 1995.

Mueller said over the years, the runway project had undergone various renditions and levels of readiness.

“In 2016, the airport commission authorized a study that thoroughly investigated the options available to repair the aging and outdated runway infrastructure, with a focus on providing the services requested by our residents and users of today,” said the chair. “The option that would help propel the airport into the future was the reconstruction of our runway.”

The additional width and length along with the extended taxiway will increase capacity and allow the airport to accommodate larger aircraft.



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Canadian air travel has faced significant challenges, including staffing and delays. Here's how to fix it

Original Article by Monette Pasher, Maclean's, Aug 24, 2023.
For full article click here

For the last two years, air travel has lurched between shutdown and crisis mode. It's not the experience that Canadians want or ought to have when they travel, and while there is still a lot to be done, many improvements are underway. Canadian airport leadership and employees are committed to restoring consumer confidence in air travel and earning the trust of passengers and the public.

Before the pandemic, our airports were a source of pride for our country. However, the COVID-19 pandemic created two significant issues that Canadian aviation is still working to make right: labour and revenue. Coming out of some very challenging years, our goal is to return to being a global leader in aviation by focusing on innovation and better service for passengers.

When air travel ground to a halt in 2020, our entire industry suddenly had too many workers. Seventy per cent of passenger traffic disappeared, and every aviation employer had to deal with the fact that they had large workforces and little revenue. Our airports had to cut a third of our workforce. Most airlines downsized to curb the financial loss: Air Canada furloughed 20,000 workers, WestJet cut 6,900 staff and Porter laid off nearly all of its 1,500 employees. NAV CANADA, the not-for-profit organization that hires and employs air traffic controllers, cut more than 700 jobs in 2020—14 per cent of its workforce.

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Brockton calls for a report on possible sale of Saugeen Municipal Airport

Original Article by Pauline Kerr,
Walkerton Herald-Times, Sept 20, 2023
For full article click here

Brockton council gave the go-ahead for a detailed staff report on Saugeen Municipal Airport. The report will "evaluate the service and the potential implications of a sale or dissolution of the organization."

The staff report presented at the meeting stated, in part, that "during budget deliberations... Brockton had the opportunity to consider the ongoing funding contribution made to Saugeen Municipal Airport, noting the large fundraising goals that had been included in the proposed budget. provides to all Brockton residents."



Airport Management Council of Ontario



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