

# Airport Management Council of Ontario

March/April 2024

Volume 13, Issue 2

The Airport Environment and You

# Representing Ontario's Airports





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#### From the Desk of the CEO

#### Next Up at AMCO

Scotty was thrilled when the Easter Bunny visited and "laid" some eggs for him to find. Each new discovery was a small treasure or treat but collectively they made for a very full basket! Not every egg was easy for Scotty to find, but he kept his eyes open until he searched them all out. As organizations (and people!) we need to be mindful of keeping our eyes open for daily "eggs"— the small wins that collectively bring great success.

2024 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for AMCO. There is a renewed sense of urgency with our advocacy efforts and an "eggs-iting" new strategic plan set to be revealed that will propel us towards a more modern, vibrant, sustainable organization.

Firstly, we are looking forward to our Spring Airfield Workshop hosted by the Earlton – Timiskaming Airport in New Liskeard, ON. This event is taking place on May 8th with an "eggs-cellent" line up of speakers and round table discussions. Workshop is a great opportunity to connect with, learn from, and share amongst colleagues and industry professionals to drive Ontario's airport industry towards being the safest and most efficient possible.

Currently, our advocacy efforts are focussing on the many small airports and aerodromes who are facing an uncertain or precarious future. While we know that airports of all sizes have "eggs-ponential" potential, municipal politicians sometimes have a more challenging time seeing the value in their local facilities. AMCO is striving to work at the local level to demonstrate the importance of what goes on at airports through public advocacy, attendance at events such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference and at local meetings where the future of the airport is in question.

Finally, I hope you have had an "eggs-hilarating" time seeking out some of today's "eggs". Throughout this edition of the Airport Environment and You, you will read stories of the current challenges and successes from Ontario's airports. We appreciate all of our members, partners, and supporters and are "eggs-tremely" grateful to be working alongside you towards filling our collective basket bringing great success to all involved.

Sincerely,

Laura McNeice CEO, AMCO

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### Welcome to the AMCO 2024 Spring Airfield Workshop!

On May 8th, 2024, the Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport, in Earlton, Ontario is excited to host the Annual Spring Airfield Workshop! AMCO looks forward to seeing all the attendees in New Liskeard and hopes that everyone enjoys their time in the northeast region!



The Earlton Timiskaming Regional Airport was constructed in 1937, with scheduled passenger service starting in 1952 as a stop for Canadian Pacific Airlines and Trans Canada Airlines en-route from Toronto to Montreal. We are currently supported by local communities that cross two different federal electoral ridings. The Airport receives no federal or provincial government support.

The Earlton Timiskaming Regional Airport is a certified aerodrome that caters to medivac, corporate, search and rescue, MNRF and general aviation aircraft with our 6000' X 150' runway that can accommodate a Boeing 737- 400 passenger aircraft. We have recently added a GPS approach that will allow aircraft to within 200' of the runway in low visibility situations making the odds of a medivac aircraft landing all that much more likely than it would have been a few years ago. We are a 24/7 operation that has a card lock fuel system that dispenses Jet A1 and Avgas aviation fuels, we are home to approximately 15 based private aircraft.

The Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport is very proud to provide all of the Temiskaming area with round-the-clock reliable and safe air access.

#### **Airport Advantages**

#### Airport

- → Low-cost location for GA aircraft owners (hangar rental, fuel, airport fees).
- → No landing fees (for private aircraft under 2,000 KG);
- → Ample land available on the airside and groundside;
- → 5998-foot runway can accommodate large corporate jets and regional turbo-props; RNAV/LPV GNSS approach for 8/26
- → Certified airport with on-site services including: FBO, Avgas and Jet Fuel refueling and AMO; all key assets for growth.

#### Infrastructure

- → Fiber-optic and natural gas pipelines passing through the airport lands
- → Rail line immediately south of the airport
- → Adjacent to Highway 11
- → Strategically located at a halfway point between North Bay and Timmins
- → Gateway to Northern Ontario

#### **Regional Context**

- → A population of 31,424 (2021)
- → 47% of the district's labour force hold a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree
- → A strong mining sector that employs 1,785 residents (as of 2016)
- → Three post-secondary educational institutions:



- 1. Northern College Haileybury Campus programs include Business, Mining, Personal Support, Nursing, Pump Systems, Veterinary, etc.
- 2. Northern College Kirkland Lake Campus programs include Business, Mining, Office Administration, Health Care, Arts & Science, Social Science, Welding Engineering, etc.
- 3. Collège Boréal Temiskaming Campus programs includes Business, Mining, Personal Support, Nursing, Pump Systems, Veterinary, etc

AMCO 2024 Spring Workshop Details

May 8th, 2024

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AMCO offers a big "Thank you!" to all the sponsors that made this event possible!

#### City looking to unlock potential of Brantford airport

Original Article by Vincent Ball, Brantford Expositor, March 4, 2024

For full article click here

A report that provides a blueprint for unlocking the potential of the Brantford Municipal Airport is being reviewed by city officials.

The report, which was brought to council earlier this year, recommends a new terminal, additional hangars and more commercial and industrial development on the property. It also recommends the creation of a Municipal Services Corporation to govern and manage the airport.

City staff are currently reviewing the report which is expected to come back to council for further discussion sometime in March or in April. The report, presented to the council as a business case for the future of the airport, suggests a number of measures that could be implemented over a period of nine years.

A new 17,000-square-foot terminal at an estimated cost of \$5.2 million is included in the report. The terminal could be constructed in 2025 and 2026 and financing could be covered by a short-term construction debt and a debenture or longer term debt.

Revenue generated by the new terminal would help offset its operating and financing costs. Several aviation-related businesses already operate out of the airport including Brant Aero, an airplane sales and service operation.

But Mayor Kevin Davis and Mark Littell, chair of the Brantford Airport Board, believe there is plenty of opportunity for growth.



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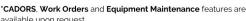






Wildlife Strike Reports

n and Roles and Permission





#### March break creates Sault Airport buzz; February passenger stats holding

Original Article by Elaine Della-Mattia, Sault Star, March 13, 2024 For full article click here

Terry Bos anticipated the worse.

But the Sault Airport CEO was pleasantly surprised with February passenger numbers after they were tallied up.

Slightly more than 11,500 passengers travelled through the Sault Ste. Marie Airport terminal in February, only about 1,200 less than the same month the year prior. A lot has changed in that year, namely, Sunwing has withdrawn its winter destination service from Sault Ste. Marie.

"I certainly expected to see worse numbers, so it tells me that travellers have picked up flights elsewhere and are still starting from here," he told The Sault Star. Sunwing is being absorbed by WestJet, a transaction expected to occur this fall, and the chances of winter destinations directly from Sault Ste. Marie returning anytime soon, are very slim.

Air Transat would be an alternative option, and one that took off from the Sault more than 20 years ago, but the entire air industry has issues right now, and Bos isn't banking on their return anytime soon. While passenger levels are only down 9.4 per cent from last February, they remain down 27 per cent from pre-pandemic February 2019 levels, the data shows.





## Goderich airport seeking business plan to generate revenue

Original Article by Scott Miller CTV News London, March 20, 2024 For full article click here

The future success of the Goderich Regional Airport will be discussed at a meeting next week.

On March 25, Goderich's Regional Airport Task Force will be meeting with local stakeholders to try and come up with a business plan that generates more revenue. Between 2015 and 2020, Goderich's airport lost an average of \$175,000 each year. Those losses are being covered by the Town of Goderich, which owns the Goderich Regional Airport.

Plans by a private company to bring a flight school and international airline to Goderich's airport back in 2022, have not taken flight, leaving Goderich in search of answers.

The airport, first known as Sky Harbour Airport, has been operating on the outskirts of Goderich, since 1938.

#### Pembroke Airport might be small, but is important

Original Article by Marie Zettler, Wings Magazine, March 13, 2024 For full article click here

At its March 6 meeting, Whitewater Region (WWR) council was brought up to speed on current activities at the Pembroke and Area Airport (PAA) of which it is a 15.8 per cent owner. Allan Wren, chair of the Pembroke and Area Airport Commission (PAAC), which manages the facility on behalf of its owners, presented an overview of its impact in the community. He was assisted by the PAAC's marketing professional, Jennifer Layman. [...]

Using a "trivia quiz" format, Ms. Layman highlighted a variety of ways in which the airport serves its owners and the wider community. "The first flight to land there in 2023 was an international air ambulance transporting a local resident who had fallen ill in St. Lucia," she said. "ORNG air ambulance service is very busy with us, as we back up three hospitals." […]

Council learned the airport serves a vital role in forest firefighting. "This past June, Calabogie-Griffith had a pretty significant forest fire, and even though there are airports closer to them, the staff here were able to meet the needs of the Ministry of Natural Resources forest firefighting crew more easily..."

A Department of National Defence (DND) exercise in the fall of 2023 was a major contributor to airport revenue. "It was a huge project," said Layman. "DND purchased 630,000 litres of fuel. [...]



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#### B.C. funds studies aimed at net-zero airports, sustainable fuel options

Original Article by Canadian Press, March 21, 2024 For full article click here

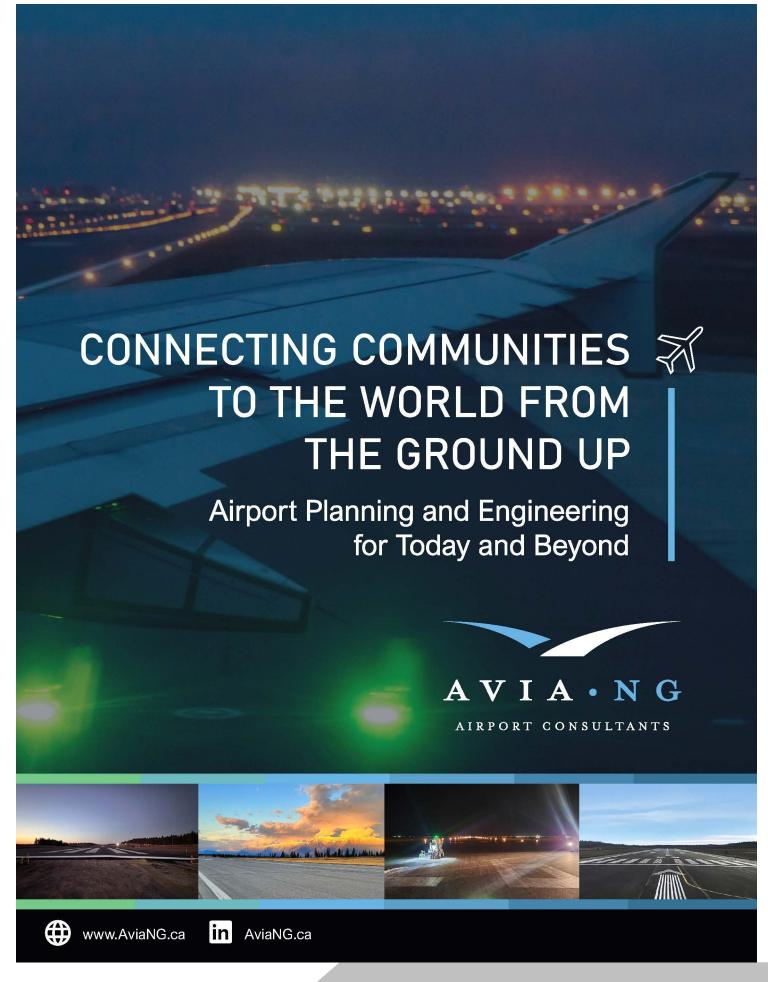
A new study will collect carbon emissions data from British Columbia's regional airports with the goal of getting all airports in the province to net-zero by 2030.

The study is part of the \$875,000 announced by the government for research aimed at making the airline industry more environmentally sustainable after the province signed a memorandum of understanding with Vancouver's airport.

A second study will look at accelerating the development of sustainable low-carbon aviation fuels, something Premier David Eby says is necessary for the future of air travel. Tamara Vrooman, president of Vancouver International Airport, says one option uses tallow byproduct from meat processing, and the potential for using wood waste is also something they'll be looking into.

Vrooman says the airport is "well on its way" to becoming net-zero by 2030, which would make it the first Canadian airport to do so. A third study plans to explore opportunities to enhance the movement of people and goods between the airport, Vancouver Island and beyond without increasing traffic congestion on the roads.

"We know that we already have significant issues with congestion in the Lower Mainland and (the airport) is next to communities, schools, shopping districts, where it wouldn't be appropriate to put that volume of trucks," Vrooman said.



## 24-year-old bald eagle keeps planes safe at Pearson Airport in Mississauga, Ontario

Original Article by Declan Finucane, inSauga.com, March 21, 2024 For more details click here

This worker at Pearson Airport in Mississauga quietly goes about his daily business of helping to keep planes of all sizes — and their passengers and crew — safe from a very specific threat. He's been performing the important task for more than two decades now — since 2001, to be exact — and he hasn't received a single pay increase in that time. No complaints, though, from Ivan, a 24-year-old bald eagle who heads up a team of some 25 birds of prey that helps keep the five runways and airspace at and around Canada's biggest and busiest airport clear of smaller birds.

Along with their human handlers, the large winged creatures reduce the number of smaller birds "and thus the chances of an airplane experiencing a bird strike," Pearson officials said in a post to social media this week. Bird strikes have been the cause of numerous plane crashes over the years in Canada and the U.S. resulting in loss of human life. Still, the number of such incidents is very low, according to aviation authorities.

Ivan is the lone bald eagle among Pearson's winged runway/airspace safety crew, airport officials note. Weighing seven pounds, he's the biggest bird of prey on duty at the airport and joined the wildlife management team in 2001. [...]

Falcon Environmental, described as a North American leader in management of nuisance wildlife at airports and landfill sites, has been using birds of prey at Pearson since 1999. Dozens of bird species in addition to an array of other wild animals call Pearson Airport and surrounding area, which includes Etobicoke Creek, home.



# New CEO appointed at Thunder Bay Airport

Original Publication by Gary Rinne, TB NewsWatch, Feb. 21, 2024 For more details click here

The new president and chief executive officer of Thunder Bay Airport is coming from Alberta, but is not a stranger to Thunder Bay.

The Thunder Bay International Airports Authority board has hired Graham Ingham from Red Deer, where he's served as CEO of the regional airport for the past seven years. [...]



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His appointment as the successor to Ed Schmidtke – who announced his retirement last fall – follows an extensive national search conducted by a consulting firm. Gary Woodbeck, TBIAA board chair, said Ingham has an excellent track record including extensive experience in air service operations, air service growth, economic and regional business development, and collaboration with partners, government and communities.

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# Kingston city council to consider airport lease extensions

Original Publication by Elliot Ferguson, Kingston Whig Standard, March 5, 2024 For more details click here

City council is to consider lease renewals for a pair of longtime tenants at the airport.

AOG Heliservices Inc. and Central Airways Ltd., occupying opposite ends of the airport, are both seeking 10-year lease renewals with options to extend.

AOG Heliservices has operated an aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul shop since 1983, and the company plans to continue to do so indefinitely. The annual lease would be valued at \$15,470 with yearly increases in line with the consumer price index.

Central Airways provides catering, de-icing, baggage handling, aircraft maintenance and storage, and fuelling services. The company has a lease in place until 2030 with an option for extending to 2040, but the company is seeking an additional 10-year extension to 2050 [...]

#### Earlton airport seeing private use take flight

Original Publication Darlene Wroe, Wings, March 20, 2024
For more details click here

Earlton Regional Airport Authority chair Jeff Laferriere is pleased about how things are shaping up at the airport. "Our year-end would have been at the end of February and we actually had a small surplus this year, which is awesome," he said in a telephone interview.

A change in management is taking place at the end of March. The Loomex Group has been managing the airport and has been providing the manager, James Smith.

"There were a number of other activities they were doing to support the airport," said Laferriere, who's also the mayor of Temiskaming Shores. However, hopes did not materialize for benefits such as marketing synergies with other airports managed by Loomex, he explained. "As of March 31 we mutually agreed on having our contract come to an end."

Smith will continue as the airport manager but now will be reporting directly to the Airport Authority board.

"Everything else is the same," said Laferriere. The change "allows us to focus specifically on our airport. It is a bit of savings for us as far as expense goes." He said the usage of the airport by privately owned planes has grown about 30 per cent since the pandemic years, while the air ambulance traffic has remained consistent. "We have seen a huge increase in fuel sales for a couple of reasons."

One is the increase in private usage of the airport. Another is due to the fact that last summer the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) was fighting forest fires in the region. He added that having the MNRF using the airport for fuelling "really helps our communities, having the airport used in case of any forest fires getting close to us," he said.

He continued that discussions have been taking place with the MNRF about the availability of the airport in



the forest fire season ahead. "Hopefully we will see them use our airport," he said.

When Rockin' On Canada
Day takes place June 29 and
30, it is hoped that the
Hercules (military aircraft) will
be available to do a
fly-by over the airport,
Laferriere added.

The airport receives funding from area member municipalities through the Airport Authority.

## Update on noise concerns around the airport in Oshawa

Original Article by Durham Radio News, March 21, 2024 For full article click here

Some residents who live in the area near the Oshawa Airport have been complaining about the noise for years.

The solution to the problem could come out of a court case or new procedures at the airport.

On Monday, MP Ryan Turnbull provided an update on the situation to Whitby council. The City of Oshawa has proposed noise abatement procedures to address the issue; that was sent to the Federal Minister of Transport for approval.

However, some of the proposed procedures would be unprecedented and could impact airports across the country.

With that in mind, Turnbull says the minister's office returned it to the city to ask for more information. There is also an issue that will go before the courts and could also impact noise around the airport – the City of Oshawa is in a legal battle with the Canadian Flight School Academy.

If the flight school loses its lease it will certainly cut down on noise. That case is expected to be heard in May.

"Depending on how those court proceedings play out and what the ruling is, there may be a significant reduction in the noise that residents experience," Turnbull told council.

Turnbull also said when the city gets back to the transport minister he is happy to continue to advocate at the federal level to ensure some of the noise abatement measures are approved.

However, Turnbull noted again that some of those measures are unprecedented. "I wouldn't expect or anticipate that all nine abatement procedures would necessarily get approved by the minister's office,"



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#### Busy summer schedule planned for Hamilton International Airport

Original Article by John Best, The Bay Observer, March 6, 2024 For full article click here

John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport (Hamilton International or Airport) is announcing its 2024 Summer Program featuring flight options to destinations across Canada, the United States and Europe plus new regional connectivity to Air Canada's global network with the launch of luxury motorcoach service between Hamilton International and Toronto Pearson. [...]

"The variety of domestic and international destinations available, is ideal for those looking to embark on a family vacation, solo adventure or weekend getaway this summer," says Cole Horncastle, Executive Managing Director of Hamilton International. "Hamilton International offers many unique benefits for travellers, including convenient parking located on-site, easy navigation with just 200 steps from curb to gate and quick processing times at key checkpoints."

The Airport Environment and You is distributed to AMCO members and the airport industry at large.

Contributions can be sent to: amco@amco.on.ca

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### **Airport Management Council of Ontario**

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