



Airport Management
Council of Ontario



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From the Desk of the Executive Director Up Next at AMCO

We are now well into summer operations and with it comes many changes and projects for our airport and aerodrome members. We look forward to connecting with all of our members during this summer's online regional meetings.

During this time AMCO is continuing to bring you our Speaker Series Sessions, most recently with Transport Canada meeting with us earlier this month. You can find all previous sessions online in the AMCO members section of our website. We will continue to bring speaker sessions valuable to our members as we move forward through the summer and into the fall and have high hopes that our 35th Annual Convention and Trade Show will run this October in beautiful Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

AMCO is also planning training sessions for this fall, including; TP312 5th Edition training, Wildlife training, and TALPA/GRF training. Stay tuned for more information on these courses and others as we move through the summer.

Finally I would also like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to AMCO team member, Roya Miron, who has moved on from her role with the association after five years with us. We wish her well in all her future endeavours.

Best Regards,

Aaron Loughheed
Executive Director, AMCO

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Air traffic control towers in Windsor, other cities to stay open, NAV Canada says

Original Article by CBC, Apr. 15, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



NAV Canada says it won't close air traffic control towers at several airports across Canada, including at Windsor International Airport. The private, non-profit company, which provides air traffic control and other services to Canadian airspace, made the announcement Thursday.

Windsor Airport CEO Mark Galvin said the news brought a lot of relief. "This has been a very difficult time for us," Galvin said. "That was something we were waiting on pins and needles [for] ... receiving that letter it's a big sigh of relief."

The Windsor control tower currently employs 10 people. Last fall, NAV Canada launched 29 aeronautical studies due to the pandemic, with the goal of safely streamlining operations.

"After considerable consultation with airlines, airports, industry associations, local officials and internal stakeholders, NAV Canada has elected to limit changes to services across the country," it said in a release. Air traffic control service will remain in communities including: Fort McMurray, Alta., Prince George, B.C., Regina., St-Jean, Que., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and Whitehorse.

NAV Canada's initial announcement it was reviewing operations was swiftly met with opposition from local politicians and leadership at the Windsor airport, with safety among the concerns raised.

"Our community rallied together, came together and with one voice basically said look we think you're on the wrong path, this is going to have a negative impact on our community, both from a public safety standpoint and economic standpoint and I think they really just saw the light," said Windsor-Tecumseh MP Irek Kusmierczyk.



Road renamed to honour retiring CEO of London International Airport

Original Article by Shawn Irvine, CTV News London, May 7, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



The head of the London International Airport is retiring. Mike Seabrook will leave his post at the end of the year.

Seabrook, at the helm of the airport for nearly a decade, had been with the operation for more than 30 years prior to taking on the role of president and CEO.

Also a pilot, he intends to fly his own plane and golf more in retirement.

...
In recognition of his contribution, the main airport roadway is being renamed, going from Terminal Circle Road to Seabrook Way.

Sunwing to resume winter sun flights from Sudbury and North Bay

Original Article by Travelweek Group, May 4, 2021
For full article click [here](#)



Sunwing will be heading back to Sudbury and North Bay this winter with vacation packages to popular sun destinations. Beginning in December 2021,

flights from Greater Sudbury Airport and North Bay Jack Garland Airport will run weekly until mid-April 2022.

Service between North Bay and Cancun will operate Thursdays from Dec. 16, 2021 until April 14, 2022, and between Sudbury and Varadero on Fridays from Dec. 17, 2021 until April 15, 2022.

"We're excited to be returning to Sudbury and North Bay this winter and offering Northern Ontarians seamless vacation experiences under our wing," said Andrew Dawson, President of Tour Operations for Sunwing.

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Thunder Bay airport, among dozens getting federal funds, gets over \$12M for safety projects

Original Article by CBC News, May 19, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



Thunder Bay International Airport is receiving nearly \$12.5 million in federal funding for four safety-related projects through Transport Canada's Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP).

The airport in northwestern Ontario is one of 63 receiving funding through the program, which was temporarily expanded to address the pandemic, for a total of 86 safety-related projects over the next year.

In Thunder Bay, the funds will go toward:

- Runway and taxiway repairs/rehabilitation.
- Lighting enhancements.
- Purchasing snow-clearing equipment and firefighting vehicles.
- Installing wildlife fencing.

Over \$2 million will be spent on two aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles, while \$8.5 million has been set aside for "rehabilitation of air-side surfaces and lighting and electrical systems."

Goderich, Ont. airport getting a facelift

Original Article by Scott Miller, CTV News London, May 20, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



Goderich's Municipal Airport is getting a roughly \$56,000 facelift.

Improvements to the airport's signage, the terminal building itself and airstrip instruments were recommendations from the newly created Goderich Municipal Airport Task Force.

Their goal is to find a way to turn the underutilized airstrip into a viable and sustainable operation.

It has routinely run a deficit, but Goderich's mayor believes there is hope on the horizon.

"There's been more engagement, and activity, and interest in the airport in the past two months, than in the previous 10 years," says Mayor John Grace.

Swoop airlines proposes expanded service from Hamilton starting this summer

Original Article by Kevin Werner, The Spec, April 17, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



One of Hamilton's more popular ultralow cost carriers, Swoop airlines, is seeing nothing but blue skies for its plan to add flights starting this summer and possibly in the winter from the city's airport.

A half year after reducing its service at Hamilton International Airport, Charles Duncan, president and chief executive officer of the airline, told the city's airport subcommittee April 14 the carrier will be adding Kelowna and Winnipeg to its destination schedule from the Hamilton airport. Currently, Swoop flies to Abbotsford, Edmonton and Winnipeg, and begins daily flights to those destinations starting later in April.

"We are quite hopeful we will be able to tap into that pent-up (travel) demand and bring people from these areas to Hamilton," said Duncan.

Prior to the pandemic, Duncan said Swoop flew to 25 cities, seven days a week. Now the company flies to three cities out of Hamilton. At one point during the pandemic, Swoop was using one airplane and servicing Halifax, Hamilton, Edmonton and Abbotsford, said Duncan.

He said service has been cut by about 90 per cent and the carrier "continues to lose quite a bit of money as all airlines are globally."

Last September, Swoop surprised Hamilton officials when it revealed its eight flights weekly to and from Abbotsford and six to and from Halifax will end in October. It left Swoop flying only from Hamilton to Edmonton and Abbotsford four times a week.

AMCO extends our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Harold Cameron. Harold retired from the Earlton-Timiskaming Airport in 2020 after many years of service to the airport and aviation. He passed away in March 2021.

'Biggest project in Sault airport's history' will modernize runways, continue medical flights

Original Article by Darren Taylor, Sootoday.com,
May 13, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



The Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation (SSMADC) is celebrating federal government funding for what Terry Bos, the airport's

president and CEO, hailed as "the biggest project in the history of the airport."

Sault MP Terry Sheehan announced over \$9 million in funding from Transport Canada's Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) via Zoom Thursday for infrastructure improvements and an equipment purchase for the airport.

\$4.8 million, set aside from the Sault Airport's own capital budget, provides a total of \$13.8 million to carry out the infrastructure projects, said Jerry Dolcetti, SSMADC board of directors chair.

Apart from the airport being an economic driver for the Sault, Bos said it is vital for health and safety.

"There has been a very large increase in the number of medical evacuation flights that have been in and out of our airport since this pandemic has gone on."

"We're certainly looking forward to carrying this (infrastructure renewal) out," Bos said.



ROW International Airport approved for \$44M facelift

Original Article by Aastha Shetty, Kitchenertoday.com,
April 17, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



The Region of Waterloo International Airport will be getting a \$44-million dollar facelift to prepare itself for an increase of about a million travellers over the next three years.

Councillor Tom Galloway told Kitchener Today with Brian Bourke on 570 NEWS this is because the airport has signed on two new airlines, and will soon be in need of more space.

"Flair Airlines is going to do 11 flights a day eventually and Pivot Airlines.. right now we're anticipating passengers will go up to 800,000 annually by the end of this year or the end of next year."

He added the upgrades will give the airport more baggage handling capacity.

"We don't have nearly enough baggage handling. We're going to have baggage handling for both International and domestic flights, which we currently have some difficulty with. The departure lounges are going to be the major addition, with the portable relocatable buildings that are being proposed."

AMCO would like to thank Maurice Best for his service to the Board of Directors. We wish you all the best with your future endeavours!

Funding application submitted to try to land new carrier at Sarnia airport

Original Article by Melanie Irwin, blackburnnews.com, May 10, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



The City of Sarnia and Scottsdale Aviation have submitted a funding application to try to land a new airline carrier for Chris Hadfield Airport.

FedDev Ontario is expected to administer \$24.2 million, of \$206 million dollars allocated by the federal government, to southern Ontario. Economic Development Director Kelly Provost said an application was submitted to the Regional Air Transportation Initiative [RATI] April 30.

"We know the industry has had a really profound impact as a result of the pandemic and these funds are meant to help airports and carriers stay operational so that they can contribute to the local economies and reconnect that service," said Provost. "So, when we saw that announcement, we were quite excited about putting an application forward."

Provost said part of the funds they've requested would be used to attract and incentivize a new carrier to provide scheduled service to Sarnia. "It's really meant to help decrease some of the costs that they might experience, while we build that capacity in the passenger numbers for the new service. There are funds included as well that would help provide the necessary equipment and the small scale infrastructure improvements needed to suit the new fleet size of a new carrier here."

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North Bay airport looks to 'new normal' in passenger transport

Original Article by CBC News, May 28, 2021
For full article click [here](#)

Air Canada says it will soon return to the Jack Garland airport in North Bay, Ont., with flights beginning at the end of June.

The carrier had pulled its service a year ago due to the pandemic. North Bay was one of 30 domestic regional routes suspended by Air Canada last June due to COVID-related travel restrictions.

Airport manager Jack Santerre calls the return of the major air carrier great news for the North Bay community.

"The timing is coincidental with what we hope [is] the end of the third wave and the start of the return to some new normal process for transfer passengers," he said.

Process To Find Partner For Niagara District Airport Begins

Original Article by iheartradio 610 CKTB, May 12, 2021
For full article click [here](#)

The search is now on to find someone to run the Niagara District Airport.

Niagara Falls council supporting a recommendation from staff to work with St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake to find a private sector partner operate and manage the facility.

The plan was previously supported by the two other city councils.

Currently, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, and St. Catharines are on the hook for operating and capital funds.

For 2021 Niagara-on-the-lake are contributing \$57,000, Niagara Falls \$290,000 and St. Catharines \$436,000.

Georgian Bluffs budget passes, despite continued airport concerns

Original Article by Rob Gowan, The Sun Times, May 13, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



Georgian Bluffs has approved its 2021 budget, but not before some on council again expressed concerns about how much the Wiarton-Keppel International Airport continues to cost the municipality. At its council meeting on Wednesday, the bylaw to adopt this year's operating and capital budget passed in a close 3-2 vote.

And it was the close to half a million dollars in costs to keep the airport going this year that led to the close vote, as both councillors Kathy Moore Coburn and Carol Barfoot pointed to the facility for their reasons to vote against the budget. Barfoot told council on Wednesday that the municipality has been pouring money into the airport for too long.

Moore Coburn, who voted on May 5 to move the budget forward, said she felt uncomfortable about doing so given her continued concerns about the municipality's airport spending.

In 2021, the airport is projected to cost the municipality \$388,500 in operating and capital expenses along with \$67,500 in loan principal and interest costs, for a total of \$456,000. Included is \$71,000 slated for capital expenditures, but those funds will not be spent until council decides how it wants to proceed with the airport.

The municipality continues to await a feasibility study on the regionalization of the facility, but the presentation of that study has been delayed while work is done to ensure it is "as fulsome and detailed as possible."



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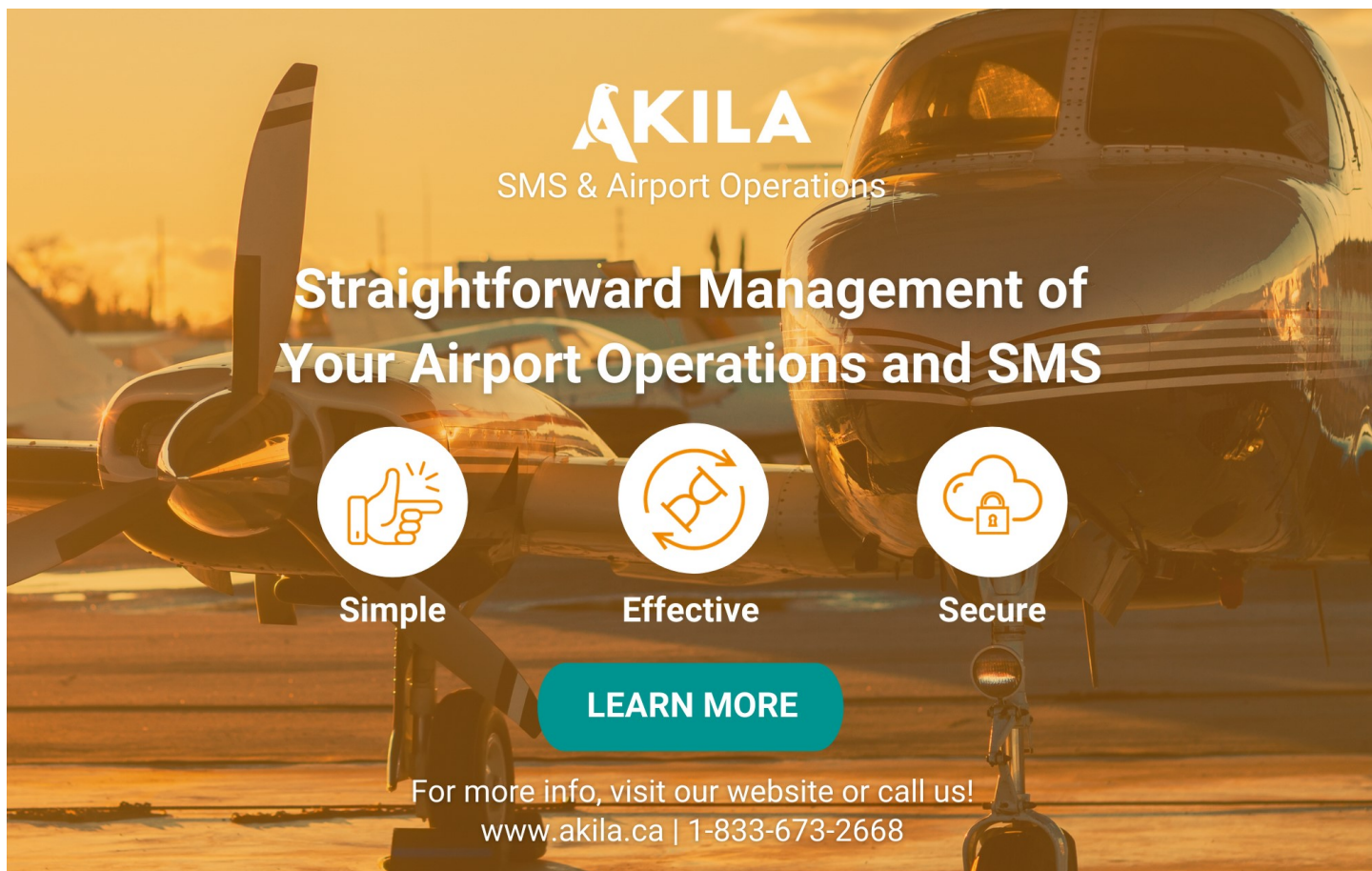
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COVID Funding Now Available For Regional Airports

Original Article by Mike Ebbeling, CKDR News, May 7, 2021

For full article click [here](#)



Local airports struggling with the fallout of COVID travel restrictions can now apply for federal aid. The Sioux Lookout facility has submitted an application in order to recoup lost revenue as well as avoid layoffs and service reductions.

Manager Ben Hancharuk says the allocation for the Northwest region, spanning Geraldton to the Ontario/Manitoba boundary, is \$24 million dollars.

“Air operators can also apply. So, we’re not just competing with the airports, we’re competing against the air operators as well.” Hancharuk is hopeful the application will be successful given they are the second busiest airport in the region. Mayor Doug Lawrance is also optimistic that they will be successful.

“Based on passenger movements, if that was how they were doing it, we would get our share. The amount that you (Ben Hancharuk) are asking for would seem to be reasonable, but the competition is greater than just the airports.”

Revised numbers indicate an operating deficit at the Sioux Lookout Airport of \$929,973.37

Waltzing Matilda Aviation to launch Connect Airlines with scheduled passenger services to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport

Original Article by Airline Network News and Analysis, May 17, 2021

For full article click [here](#)

Massachusetts-based charter operator Waltzing Matilda Aviation plans to start scheduled passenger services in October 2021 with the launch of Connect Airlines. Subject to regulatory approvals, the new airline will connect Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport with business centres in the US Northeast and Midwest using two Q400s. This ambitious expansion is being led by John Thomas, CEO and co-founder of Waltzing Matilda Aviation, and formerly Group Executive of Virgin Australia Airlines and Managing Director of global airline practice LEK Consulting.

“The charter market has stayed very resilient throughout the past 12 months,” he begins. “As vaccinations take place, more and more American travellers want to travel again, especially on short-haul flights. We hope to ride the wave of this rebound.”

Thomas explains that the route development strategy for Connect Airlines is based on Billy Bishop being a much more convenient airport for point-to-point travellers to Toronto than Pearson, which is 20km from downtown Toronto. “As such, we want to build out the points that are served from Billy Bishop and complement the destinations that Porter Airlines was serving prior to COVID-19,” he says. “We believe there will be a general resurgence in the use of turboprop aircraft, especially on routes of less than 400 miles, and US transborder services from Billy Bishop fit that model. It is also a higher yielding market that we believe will appreciate our business model/offering.”



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St. Thomas Air Fest reveals new date for 'Salute to All Essential Workers'

Original Article by Andrew Graham, GlobalNews,
May 28, 2021

For full article click [here](#)

The St. Thomas Air Fest has announced a new date for a fly-by event set to honour those working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials announced Friday that the Air Fest's Salute to All Essential Workers will take place on Saturday, June 12.

The event was initially set for early April, but Air Fest was forced to cancel last minute when the Ontario government announced a province-wide stay-at-home order just days before. Organizers say participating pilots will adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols and in most cases will be flying alone.

The salute takes off at 12:30 p.m., but Air Fest says times and acts are subject to change based on multiple factors, including weather.

Participating acts include a banner pull from Flite Line Charters, appearances from the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association and Waterloo Warbirds, as well as a fly-by of a RCAF CC-130H Hercules aircraft.

Plan calls for opening restaurant at airport if city scraps landing fees

Original Article by Denis Langlois, The Sun Times,
May 9, 2021

For full article click [here](#)

The owners of The Dam Pub in Thornbury are proposing to open a sister restaurant at the Owen Sound Billy Bishop Regional Airport.

But the plan, which is to be presented to the city's operations committee, comes with a proviso – the city must eliminate the new \$35 landing fee for small, private aircraft and vow not to reintroduce it while the restaurant is operating.

Stephanie Price, co-owner of The Dam Pub, said the proposal is aimed at helping to make the airport an aviation and community-friendly facility.

"Everybody's excited to do this. And I believe it's going to make it bigger and better than the airport has ever been," she said.

...

City council passed a bylaw in January to introduce landing fees at Owen Sound's regional airport, which is on Highway 26 in rural Meaford. The fees, which are to be phased-in, are \$35 for aircraft under 5,000 kilograms and \$70 for heavier aircraft.

City officials say the fees are intended to help reduce the annual net cost to property taxpayers to operate and maintain the airport, which council heard has climbed from \$100,000 in 2004 to \$228,000 in 2020.

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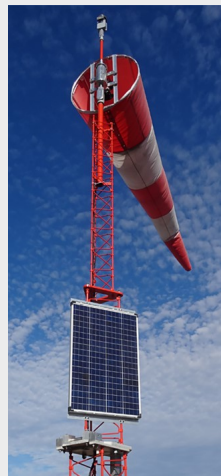
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