

Airport Management Council of Ontario

July/Aug 2021

Volume 10, Issue4

The Airport Environment and You

# Representing Ontario's Airports





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# From the Desk of the Executive Director Up Next at AMCO

The fall is fast upon us and as summer draws to a close AMCO is excited to once again be taking registrations for our upcoming 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Trade Show hosted by Sault Ste. Marie Airport. With over 50% of the booths filled for the tradeshow, numerous speakers lined up, and all the events you've come to expect of an AMCO convention this is sure to be one you do not want to miss.

But wait; there's more! AMCO is also taking registrations for a number of training courses to be held this September and you can register by reaching out to Laura McNeice or visiting the AMCO website. Stay up to date on wild-life, TP312, and more with training provided by certified trainers and AMCO members.

Finally it is with a great appreciation and thanks that I must announce this as my last "UP NEXT AT AMCO" as I will be transitioning out of my role as Executive Director and AMCO. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with so many of you over the years for the betterment of AMCO's airport and aerodrome system in the hopes of leading us to be the safest and most efficient in the world. I know AMCO has nothing but good things on the horizon and is in very capable hands with Laura and the entire board behind her.

Sincere thanks,

Aaron Lougheed Executive Director, AMCO

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#### Spotlight: Convention Host Sault Ste. Marie Airport

First opened in 1961, the Sault Ste. Marie Airport was operated by the Canadian Government for more than 30 years until a new federal policy brought big changes to airports across the country. When the City of Sault Ste. Marie declined the option to operate the Sault Ste. Marie Airport, members of the community came up with a new model.

After carrying out a two-year feasibility study to formalize ownership and operation of the Sault Ste. Marie Airport, the Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation (SSMADC) was founded April 26, 1996 and took over operation of the Sault Ste. Marie Airport on March 28, 1998. Of the 23 regional, local or small airports in Ontario that have been transferred from the Federal Government, the Sault Ste. Marie Airport is one of few airports that is not directly affiliated with a municipality.

The SSMADC took over the operation of the Sault Ste. Marie Airport which was losing nearly \$1 million per year under the operation of Transport Canada. The SSMADC was able to eliminate the deficits and turn the operation into a viable self-sustaining operation. This in turn has led to the many expansion opportunities such as the addition of new airlines, new tenants and tenant expansions that the SSMADC has been able to achieve over the past 23 years.

Situated on the original meeting grounds of the Batchewana and Anishinabek people in the heart of the Great Lakes, the Sault Ste. Marie Airport is located on 1,800 acres of land south-west of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The Sault Ste. Marie Airport is home to two runways, each measuring 6,000 feet (1,829 metres), and serviced by multiple airlines. Air Canada Express flies into Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Porter Airlines makes daily trips to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, and Bearskin Airlines flies into Sudbury and Thunder Bay. FedEx Express and SkyLink Express provide cargo service every weekday.

During the summer of 2021, the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) has allowed the SSMADC to modernize Runway 04-22, various taxiways and the airfield drainage system after receiving more than \$9 million. The project is the largest in the history of the Sault Ste. Marie Airport! Passenger numbers had risen steadily, year by year, breaking the 200,000-mark for the first time in 2015. Passenger volumes hit an all-time high in 2018, exceeding 215,000 passengers for the first time; totaling 215,043 and 211,277 in 2019. However, the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on airports caused a drop in passenger traffic down to 56,768 in 2020.

Since its incorporation in 1998 the SSMADC has overcome challenges, celebrated successes, and reached important milestones, demonstrating that an independent operator model is achievable. As the SSMADC completes its 23rd year of operation in the midst of recovery from the unprecedented



impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors is optimistic about the stability of the organization and looking forward to a bright future in Sault Ste. Marie. Welcome to the Sault Ste. Marie Airport and enjoy your time in the heart of the Great Lakes!

#### The Airport Environment and You

# New Owner Sought For Billy Bishop Regional Airport

Original Article by Staff, The Meaford Independent, July 26, 2021 For full article click here

Owen Sound City Council voted in favour of beginning the process to divest or sell land known as the Billy Bishop Regional Airport with the hope that a new owner will continue to operate the site as an airport.

The Owen Sound Billy Bishop Regional Airport (CYOS) was constructed in 1991 and has been operating since 1993. The airport property covers approximately 263 acres and is located five kilometres east of Owen Sound in the Municipality of Meaford.

Over time the needs of a municipality change and services are reviewed to address financial restraints and efficiencies. The City has been running CYOS for the past 28 years and Council has decided that the aviation community would be better served if the Billy Bishop Regional Airport was privately owned.

# Porter Airlines orders up to 80 new planes, will start flying out of Toronto's Pearson airport

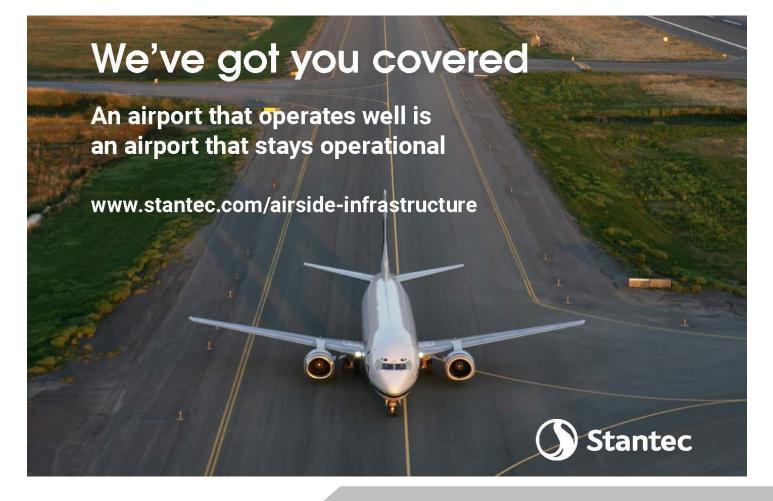
Original Article by Canadian Press, July 12, 2021 For full article click here

Porter Airlines could shake up the Canadian airline industry after announcing plans to launch jet service to destinations in Canada, the United States and the Caribbean with an order for up to 80 aircraft with a list price of \$5.8 billion US.

The regional airline says it has signed a deal to become the North American launch customer for the Embraer E195-E2 jet and plans to offer flights from Toronto's Pearson International Airport, along with Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax.

Porter has placed a firm order for 30 planes and 50 purchase right options, and it likely received a hefty discount from the list price. It also has the option to convert purchase rights to the E190-E2.

The new aircraft will not operate from Toronto's Billy Bishop airport on the city's waterfront, where Porter currently offers service on turboprop aircraft.



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#### New drone manufacturing facility at Lake Simcoe Regional Airport

Original Article by Katelyn Wilson, CTV News, June 4, 2021 For full article click here

BARRIE, ONT. -- A 32,000 square foot hangar at the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport will soon be home to a new manufacturing facility for Volatus Aerospace.

The company is one of Canada's largest providers of crewless aircraft and drone services.

"Remotely piloted aircraft systems, or more commonly known as drones, are what we will be manufacturing, and we have three different types that we will be building," said sales vice-president Andy Buck.

Buck says this includes 12,000 FIXAR drones, commonly used for things like agricultural surveying and aerial photography.

Once the space is complete, it will create upwards of 25 jobs.

"Simcoe County has been very innovative in what they're trying to do here," Buck said. "We really believe in the ecosystem that they are creating and nurturing here."

The county approved the proposal earlier this year as part of its long-term strategic plan, helping to transform the airport into an economic and innovation hub.

AMCO extends our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Lloyd Richards. Lloyd served on the COPA Board of Directors since 2012 representing Northern Ontario and had a great passion for general aviation. He passed away in July 2021.

#### Cadillac Fairview buys 100% stake in Toronto Buttonville airport

Original Article by Don Wilcox, Renx.ca, July 15, 2021 For full article click here

Cadillac Fairview is now the sole owner of the Toronto Buttonville Municipal Airport, a 169-acre property in the City of Markham which for years has been considered a prime site for a major redevelopment.

The real estate giant has paid almost \$193 million to acquire the 50 per cent interest in the property which it did not already own, according to sale information provided to RENX by Altus Group's RealNet database.

The property is located at the junction of Highway 404 and 16th Avenue in the northern portion of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). It's about 30 kilometres north of Toronto.

Although Cadillac Fairview declined a RENX request for an interview about the sale, the Toronto-based firm did confirm the acquisition – saying for now it will continue to operate as an airport.

#### Timmins airport runways get \$9.5M in rehabilitation

Original Article by Northern Ontario Business Staff, June 17, 2021 For full article click here

Larger, heavier aircraft can now land at the Victor M. Power Airport in Timmins following the completion of a \$9.5-million runway rehab project.

In the planning since 2018, the job involved the repaving of both the main 6,000-foot runway and the secondary 4,900-foot runway, as well as two taxiways, the equivalent of about 40 kilometres of roadway.

Road contractor Miller Paving refinished the runways with 125 millimetres of asphalt, which will extend their lives and provide greater load-bearing strength.

Transport Canada's Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) provided a little over \$5 million for the project, while the City of Timmins covered the remaining \$4.4 million.



# The Airport Environment and You

# Airports to become fastest-growing infrastructure sector to invest in Cybersecurity

Original Article by Wings Staff, May 31, 2021 For full article click here

Frost & Sullivan in late May published a report looking at the growth of cybersecurity in what it categorizes as critical infrastructure facilities, which is expected to invest up to US\$24.22 billion by 2020 (all dollar amounts in U.S. figures).

In the report, called *Digitalization and Real-time Visibility Transforming the Global Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Market,* critical infrastructure is then segmented into oil and gas facilities, utilities (electric and water), maritime (ports and entry points), and airports.

"While oil and gas facilities will continue to remain the largest [critical infrastructure] segment investing in cybersecurity solutions, airports will prove to be the fastest-growing one, with a CAGR of 10.1 per cent. Spending is expected to reach \$1.87 billion by 2030," said Danielle VanZandt, Industry Analyst for Security at Frost & Sullivan.

VanZandt continued to explain the growth in cybersecurity investment by airports is being driven by the construction of new facilities, digitalization upgrades within existing airports, and incremental updates being made to cybersecurity systems to keep up and to also improve detection capabilities.





# Billy Bishop Airport to Resume Commercial Airline Service on September 8, 2021

Original Article by Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, July 5, 2021 For full article click here

PortsToronto, owner and operator of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, is pleased to confirm that commercial airline service to/from the downtown airport will resume September 8, 2021, with the announced restart of Porter Airlines on that day. Porter Airlines will phase in its scheduled service to/from Toronto, offering flights to/from Montreal, Ottawa and Thunder Bay on September 8, with eight more destinations being brought online the week of September 13. Air Canada is expected to restart its Montreal service in September as well.

"PortsToronto is pleased to confirm that Billy Bishop Airport will resume commercial airline operations on September 8, 2021, and has begun the process of recalling staff, preparing the airport, and counting down the days until we can welcome back travellers to our successful and award-winning airport," said Geoffrey Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, PortsToronto. "Billy Bishop Airport is an asset to the city of Toronto and surrounding region given its impact on supporting the economy, facilitating trade and tourism, and providing thousands of jobs. Billy Bishop Airport will play a significant role in the economic recovery of our city and province, and we are excited to ramp up our operations and get back to the business of connecting travellers to the people, places, experiences and jobs they love."

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# Sault airport lands \$2M in pandemic relief funding

Original Article by Norther Ontario Business Staff, July 28, 2021 For full article click here

After taking a financial beating from reduced air travel restrictions due to the pandemic, the Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation finally fielded some relief with \$2.15 million in federal funding dedicated toward airport operations for the next year.

The money is coming through FedNor and originating from the federal government's \$206-million Regional Air Transportation Initiative (RATI), launched in March, to subsidize regional air carriers and aviation-related businesses and non-profit organizations.

Sault Ste. Marie MP Terry Sheehan delivered the news on July 28.

As an independent entity, the Sault airport was feeling the pressure of plummeting aviation traffic through the facility since the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020.

Plenty of government money was being funnelled to bail out air carriers and Canada's larger airports but little to nothing was trickling down to local airports and regional hubs.

Not aligned with the municipality, the Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corp. self-generates all of its operation and capital costs through user fees, leases, aircraft and vehicle parking. The corporation is a creation of a national policy from the 1990s when Ottawa transferred ownership of many airports to local or private authority interests. The Sault's airport governance was set up as a private not-for-profit.



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# Oshawa airport action plan focused on limiting flight school traffic

Original Article by Reka Szekely, The Star, June 16, 2021 For full article click here

An Oshawa airport action plan is focused on limiting flight school traffic and creating a better balance between airport activity and the ability of nearby residents to enjoy their homes.

The business plan for the city-owned Oshawa Executive Airport expired at the end of 2019. The city has held numerous consultations in order to create a new business plan, however, an ongoing lawsuit with an airport-based flight school and a request for noise abatement to the federal government means it's impossible to predict long-term traffic at the airport and, as a result, a temporary action plan running through 2022 was created.

The action plan prioritizes restricting flight school traffic, which has drawn noise complaints from both Oshawa and Whitby residents about noisy planes flying circuits over area homes.

#### Plan ► Design ► Deliver

#### Windsor MP, mayor announce \$1 million in airport funding

Original Article by Kathleen Saylors, Windsor Star, July 28, 2021 For full article click here

Windsor's airport will receive more than \$1 million in capital upgrades as the airport's operations, hard-hit by the pandemic, begin to emerge post-COVID-19.

Windsor-Tecumseh Liberal MP Irek Kusmierczyk, as well as YQG president Mark Galvin and Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens announced more than \$1 million in upgrades for the airport on Tuesday.

The grant money will contribute to necessary airport upgrades, including HVAC system improvements, new ramp equipment, renovations and better signage and barriers in the airport to adjust to the "new normal" of air travel, said airport CEO Mark Galvin.

The funding for Windsor's airport comes from the federal Regional Air Transportation Initiative.

## COVID-19: Canada opens border to vaccinated U.S. travellers on Aug. 9

Original Article by Lisa Cordasco, Vancouver Sun, July 19, 2021 For full article click here

Canada will open its border to fully vaccinated U.S. citizens and permanent residents living in the U.S., starting Aug. 9 — and it plans to reopen the border to international travellers on Sept. 7.

Travellers will have to submit proof of vaccination on the ArriveCAN app or online portal. They must also provide results of a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to entering Canada and be asymptomatic upon arrival.

Travellers must also carry a paper or digital copy of their vaccination documentation in English or French or via a certified translation to show a government official, if requested.

Travellers will not be forced to guarantine, but they must have a 14 day guarantine plan ready. The threenight government authorized hotel stay requirement will be eliminated for all travellers arriving by air from the U.S., starting Aug. 9.

Unvaccinated children will also not be required to guarantine, but they must wear a mask and cannot participate in group activities, including summer camps. It remains unclear whether unvaccinated children will be prevented from going to tourist attractions, since there is no requirement for the attraction owners to monitor visitors.

Transport Canada Minister Omar Alghabra said the change is due to relatively low COVID-19 cases and high vaccination rates in Canada.



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#### Sudbury Airport to get \$3.5 million from Ottawa

Original Article by Ian Campbell, CTV News Northern Ontario, July 29, 2021 For full article click here

Help is on the way for another regional airport. Thursday morning, just 24 hours after announcing help for Sault Ste. Marie, FedNor revealed an investment in Sudbury.

"Sudbury Airport will receive a non-repayable contribution of \$3.5 million from FedNor," said Nickel Belt MP Marc Serré, to a round of applause inside the terminal.

Regional airports have been struggling for some time. Air Canada even pulled out of Jack Garland Airport in North Bay for a time.

Serré said they announced the funds as quickly as they could get it approved in the House of Commons.

"These announcements that were announced in Budget 2021 that were made in April, were just approved at the end of June by Parliament," he said. "That's why we're making these investments over the summer, because the budget was approved at the end of June."

The money will be used to pay down last year's debt.

While it won't cover everything, Greater Sudbury Airport CEO Todd Tripp said the money is a start to getting back on the right path.

"Most airports are in the same position we are -- they're looking for the dollars for 2021, as well," Tripp said. "Much appreciated and very thankful for these dollars, but the reality is it's not enough to cover both years."

# Local Air Canada service to resume June 28 'Positive news' says airport manager

Original Article by Jeff Turl, BayToday.ca, June 15, 2021 For full article click here

Jack Garland Airport Manager Jack Santerre is a happy man today.

That's because Air Canada announced it would be resuming North Bay to Toronto flights at Jack Garland Airport beginning Monday, June 28.

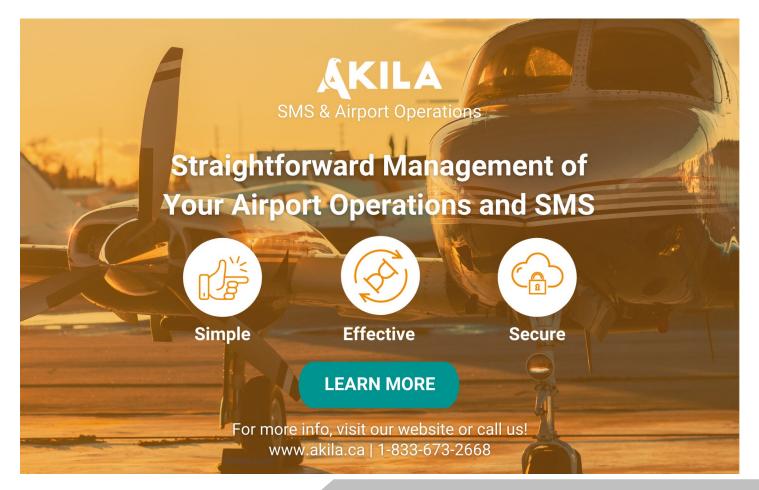
"It's positive news for a change," he told BayToday.

He expects 10-15 airline-related jobs will be returning as Air Canada Jazz is already retraining staff to prepare for the resumption of service.

Meanwhile, Santerre says the airport is already in operational mode.

"The airport was never closed so we continued to function providing regularly scheduled service for other air carriers. All of our safety protocols are in place so for us, it's a return to the service that was here before. There's no significant gear-up from the airport corporation, but from the airlines, there will be people coming back to work."

Air Canada will start gradually in North Bay with three flights a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. By late July that schedule will increase to one flight per day, then increase to two per day in the fall.





#### Council agrees to 5-year airport deal

Original Article by Jenna Cocullo, The Chatham Voice, July 6, 2021 For full article click here

Chatham-Kent has inked a five-year deal to provide services at the municipal airport located near Charing Cross.

Council approved the \$1,336,421 contract with Z3 Aviation at its June 28 meeting.

The move calls for an increase of \$78,758 in the airport's base budget with the increase to be included as part of next year's budget deliberations.

Wallaceburg Coun. Carmen McGregor questioned why the deal had to be five years in length, stating that a one-year deal should be considered. McGregor said a year-long deal would be appropriate, as it would allow administration to explore other options, including privatization.

Thomas Kelly, general manager of infrastructure and engineering for Chatham-Kent, provided a synopsis of the annual usage of the airport, explaining a typical year amounts to about 7,000 hours, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, including closure of the border, usage was down to 4,000 hours in 2020.

In the past, Kelly said the municipal airport's main customers have been RM Restorations and Enbridge, however, Enbridge is no longer involved.

He said, "The life blood of their success was based on that airport."

## Second World War pilot Ken Lett donates \$2.4 million to MRU aviation program

Original Article by Peter Glenn, Mount Royal Media Room, June 29, 2021 For full article click here

A Second World War veteran who flew Spitfires in combat, survived the harrowing invasion of Normandy, served in the Cold War and then found success in the aviation support industry, Ken Lett has lived a life dedicated to the skies. Now, at 97, he is giving back to a new generation of pilots with a \$2.4 million donation to the Mount Royal University Aviation Diploma program.

Mount Royal's two-year Aviation Diploma is one of Canada's elite Aviation Accreditation Board International programs, integrating academic reparation with flight simulator training for a Commercial Pilot Licence with multi-engine and Instrument ratings. The program marked its 50th anniversary in 2020.

In 1978, Lett came to Calgary and joined the aviation industry. He and partners focused on refuelling operations and related services through Executive Flight Centre Fuel Services, finding great success as Western Canada's oil industry boomed.

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# Special Thanks to our Sustaining Members



The Airport Management Council of Ontario was formed to represent the interests of airport owners and operators. The AMCO Newsletter, *The Airport Environment and You*, is distributed to members and the airport industry a large.

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

The opinions and views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Airport Management Council of Ontario, its Board of Directors, or its members, nor are they responsible for such opinions and views or for any inaccuracies in the articles.

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