



Airport Management
Council of Ontario



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The Airport Environment and You

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The Airport Environment and You

From the Desk of the CEO

Up Next at AMCO

I hope everyone has sent Santa their Christmas letters already—he will be on his way in no time! What have you included on your list?

AMCO’s list includes a new provincial government airport funding program. This is something we are working towards with the help of consultant HM Aero Aviation Consulting. We will be doing a survey of Ontario’s airports that is easy to complete and will be very beneficial in compiling essential data for making our case that funding is essential to keep Ontario’s Airports safe and efficient.

Another item on the AMCO Christmas wish list is for the federal government to retain the higher ACAP program funding amount that was introduced during the pandemic. We do not want to see this number reduced back to where it was in 2019. AMCO will be working with the CAC and other association’s across Canada to advocate for this.

Lastly, I’m sure everyone can agree, that we wish for a quick resolution to the pandemic so that 2022 isn’t riddled with changing regulations, mandates and new variants. We would like to see aviation recover without being hit with any more travel restrictions. We wish for health and safety for everyone.

This season also reminds me to be grateful. AMCO is grateful for our members and the support you give us all year long. We thank you for attending our events such as the Regional Meetings, online Speaker Series and Small Airports and Aerodrome Meetings. We appreciate everyone who gets involved in any way. We wouldn’t be here without you, and it is for you that we exist at all!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you! Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the Ezine and we look forward to bringing you more airport news in 2022.

Sincerely,

Laura McNeice,
CEO, AMCO

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Confusion at Canadian airports: Few details on COVID-19 testing rules for travellers

Original Article by Fakiha Baig,
The Canadian Press, Dec. 2, 2021
For full article click [here](#)

Confusion has been growing at some Canadian airports that say they want more direction from the federal government since it changed COVID-19 testing rules for travellers.

As health officials from around the world warned about the new Omicron variant, Ottawa announced earlier this week that all air passengers entering Canada, except those from the United States, need to be tested upon arrival and isolate until they get their results.

The rule also applies to those who are fully vaccinated against the virus.

But there have been few details on when testing will start.

Giovanni Taboylilson said he was tired and puzzled after arriving Thursday at Edmonton International Airport from Jamaica. He said he was told by airport officials during his layover in Toronto that new rules were kicking in at midnight

He said he was randomly selected for a test in Toronto, was told his results would be available in three days, and was allowed to continue to Edmonton.

“They stamped my passport and let me go through, so that's what made no sense,” the 25-year-old DJ said after visiting his family in Jamaica for eight months.

Taboylilson, who is fully vaccinated, said he tested negative in Jamaica before boarding his flight and wasn't told to get tested again or to quarantine once he arrived in Edmonton while waiting for his results.

Toronto's Pearson International Airport was telling travellers on Twitter that it was still waiting for more details on the new requirements.

“This new mandate has not yet been made official by our Federal Government,” the airport said on Twitter in response to a person's question about whether her husband would undergo testing and have to isolate after arriving in Canada.

“We are awaiting information as to when and how this will be executed.”

In Edmonton, an airport spokesman said staff are in talks with Transport Canada, which is working to bring in testing for all travellers as soon as possible. “We don't have a set date for when testing will start, but we anticipate it will begin in the next several days,” Steve Maybee said in an email.



Mississauga's Pearson Airport offers direct flights to Canada's north for the first time ever

Original Article by Declan Finucane, insauga.com,
Nov. 25, 2021

[For full article click here](#)

For the first time, Pearson Airport in Mississauga is looking to the north—way north—as it continues to add flights to and from destinations across Canada, North America and the world.

Starting next May, Yukon-based Air North will for the first time ever take passengers via direct flights from Pearson to Whitehorse (Yukon) and Yellowknife (Northwest Territories).

Air North, which has been operating direct flights to and from Ottawa on a seasonal service basis since 2014, is looking forward to the new direct connection with Pearson Airport.

“As we look towards economic recovery in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories over the coming years, it has become evident to us that another connection to central Canada is going to be essential,” said Joe Sparling, Air North's president and CEO.

Muskoka Airport flying high

Original Article by Mathew Reisler,
MyMuskokaNow, Oct. 15, 2021

[For full article click here](#)

After a rough 2020 for the Muskoka Airport, a recent report from the District of Muskoka shows positive signs of recovery.

Between July and August 2021, visitor traffic at the airport was up 62-percent for jet aircraft, 62-percent for turboprops and 36-percent for helicopters in comparison to the same timeframe in 2020.

Statistics from the district also show that fuel sales are up 64-percent at the airport between July and August 2021 when compared to the same period last year.

“This airport will go back to where it was, if not more,” the airport CEO Len O'Connor tells the MyMuskokaNow.com newsroom.



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AIRPORT PERFORMANCE

How we make it happen

Airport gets funds from feds

Original Article by Thomas Perry, timminspress.com, Nov. 16, 2021

For full article click [here](#)

An agreement with Transport Canada will see the City of Timmins receive \$836,250 for various pieces of airside mobile equipment at the Victor M. Power Municipal Airport.

The funding represents a 65 per cent contribution of the Transport Canada-based equipment valuation.

“We have had some funding applications approved in the past, including our runway rehabilitation over the past two years,” said Dave Dayment, manager of the facility, during a report to city council during the Nov. 9 meeting.

“Transport Canada has an equipment list they authorize airports to have, based on your passenger volumes, size of runway, that includes plows, blowers, sweepers and this was a bit of a surprise, quite honestly, that we were approved for this.

“I applied for these pieces of equipment two years ago, when we applied for the runway overlay.

“We were successful with the runway overlay, so I didn’t really think we were going to be successful with four pieces of heavy equipment for the airport at the same time.

“Due to COVID-19, the federal government increased the ACAP (Airports Capital Assistance Program) program from \$38 million, bumping it up by another \$98 million.”

Majority of people living near Oshawa Airport say noise from planes continues to rise: survey

Original Article by Durham Radio News, Nov. 22, 2021

[For full article click here](#)

The vast majority of people living near the Oshawa Executive Airport say noise from planes and other airport operations has been getting worse.

That's according to a new survey from Oshawa MP Colin Carrie.

Carrie's office launched an online and mail-based survey in the spring, asking area residents for their thoughts on the airport.

Almost 1,300 valid responses were submitted, more than 90 per cent of which came from people living within three kilometres of the airport.

About 58 per cent of respondents said they have noticed an increase in airport noise over the last two years, including 45 per cent who reported "significantly more" noise.

Under ten per cent reported less noise compared to two years ago. About a third said they didn't notice much difference or were unsure.

A clear majority of respondents also said the airport is a "key driver of our local economy and an important transportation and recreational asset."

About 65 per cent of those who took the survey agreed with that statement, while 30 per cent did not.

More than one in four respondents said they would like to see the airport shut down entirely.

"It's clear that a majority of airport-area residents want a substantial reduction in flight-school related noise in the near term," said Carrie of the results. "It's also clear that a strong majority of residents— in the immediate area and beyond— continue to value the airport and believe it's an important economic, transportation and recreational asset."



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TSB investigating incident at Kingston Airport

Original Article by Steph Crosier, The Whig Standard, Dec. 1, 2021

For full article click here

The Transportation Safety Board has assigned a team of investigators to probe a “runway excursion” that happened on Tuesday at Kingston Airport.

The TSB said the incident involved an Embraer Phenom 300 light business jet that can carry up to 11 occupants.

“The TSB will gather information and assess the occurrence,” the very brief news release stated.

Transport Canada defines a runway excursion as an aircraft leaving the runway by either overrunning it or veering off to the side. It can occur during takeoff or landing.

Aron Winterstein, manager of the airport, told the Whig-Standard that the plane went off the south end of Runway 0119, which runs north-south, while landing at about 6:30 p.m. He said there were no injuries reported.

He said the airport emergency plan was activated without a hitch and that TSB investigators have finished their investigation at the scene. They are now in the recovery stage to remove the aircraft from the runway.



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Edmonton in June? Swoop announces return to London airport

Original Article by Free Press Staff, London Free Press, Nov. 15, 2021

For full article click here

Swoop is back.

The discount airline is returning to London International Airport with low-cost flights to Edmonton, the airport announced Monday.

Swoop, owned by WestJet Airlines Ltd., will begin service three times a week in June.

“Swoop was a hit in London before the pandemic, offering convenient flights to top destinations at a low cost,” said airport chief executive Michael Seabrook.

“We’re optimistic that we’ll see more Swoop routes make a comeback soon. Today’s announcement is a positive step in the right direction!”

Swoop and other airlines paused their services in London due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are thrilled to re-establish service to London International Airport with the announcement of our non-stop Edmonton flights this summer,” said Swoop president Charles Duncan.

“London International Airport has worked hard to keep its costs and fees low. They are aligned with our low-cost model, and partnering together we’re confident this route will be a huge success.”



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Airports for sale, and selling, in Midwestern Ontario

Original Article by Scott Miller, CTVNews London, Nov. 5, 2021

For full article click [here](#)

Summer and Tyler Papple are the new owners of the Wingham airport.

“When we heard the airport was potentially for sale, we thought it was a good opportunity to enliven and get more activity going at the Wingham airport again,” says Summer.

Pilots themselves, the Papples, who run a sightseeing and air taxi business out of Seaforth, Ont. say they didn’t want to see an airport close in the area, so they spent their own money to ensure it didn’t.

As a condition of sale, they’ve agreed to run it as an airport for at least the next 15 years.

“Some of our initial steps will be getting fuel available here again. We want to see new hangars being built. Anything we can do that will encourage more pilots to fly into Wingham, and eventually to get more pilots established here,” says Summer.

The Municipality of North Huron is happy the facility will remain an airport, but was more than happy to unload it.

“We’re happy to sell it because an airport is not a core service for a township. It’s an add-on, and we don’t feel this add-on was worth keeping at the cost of \$100,000 a year,” says North Huron Reeve Bernie Bailey.

North Huron isn’t alone. Owen Sound just sold their airport for \$1.5 million in order to get out from under future infrastructure costs.

Georgian Bluffs is currently trying to sell the Wiarton Keppel Airport, because they can’t afford the estimated \$8.7 million future improvements required there.

“Most airports do not make money. Most municipalities can’t afford to lose money. The cost of doing business is too high, with your regular duties, you have to do,” says Bailey.

The Papples don’t envision the Richard W. Levan Wingham airport as a money maker, but they hope to at least find a way to break even on their new venture in the near future.



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Sunwing cancels flights out of Jack Garland

Original Article by Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles,
The Nugget, Nov. 23, 2021
For full article click here

Sunwing has cancelled its flights out of Jack Garland Airport for this season. Airport manager Jack Santerre was informed of the decision Monday.

"Sunwing advised us of the cancelled flights for this season. The aviation industry is still in recovery mode for international travel and there is still only a limited number of airports able to accept international flights in Canada based on Transport Canada's continued restrictions which continues to hinder market recovery," he told The Nugget in an email.

In May, Sunwing announced the airline would be offering flights to tropical destinations.

Not only was Jack Garland's Airport slated to receive the extra boost in traffic, but so was the Greater Sudbury Airport.

8 more airports will open to international flights Nov. 30

Original Article by Peter Zimonjic,
CBC News, Nov. 2, 2021
For full article click here

The federal government took another step toward rebuilding the travel industry Tuesday by announcing an expansion of the number of Canadian airports that will accept international flights.

Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said eight additional airports will begin playing host to international arrivals on Nov. 30, bringing the total number of Canadian airports open to global travellers up to 18.

"Opening these airports to international travel is another step forward in rebuilding and reopening our travel system," said Alghabra.

"This move will ensure travellers are able to access more regional airports for their international travel this winter while continuing to support our government's measured approach to reopening our borders."

Pivot Airlines announces service to Ottawa and Montreal from the Region of Waterloo International Airport (YKF)

Original Article by Pivot Airlines, Nov. 5, 2021

For full article click [here](#)

Pivot Airlines is pleased to announce the launch of scheduled air service between Waterloo Region and Ottawa beginning February 19, 2022, and between Waterloo Region and Montreal beginning March 21, 2022.

Advanced tickets go on sale midnight November 5, 2021 at www.flypivot.com.

"**Pivot your travel** embodies our core belief that our launch markets reflect the global trend in regional travel," explained Eric Edmondson, CEO of Pivot Airlines. "We believe that while Toronto Pearson is a world-class global hub, regional airports like the Region of Waterloo International Airport (YKF) offer a better, more seamless, and hassle-free alternative for regional travel."

Pivot Airlines is a value carrier operating the world's most popular series of regional jets, the Mitsubishi Canadair Regional Jet. Advanced booking sales will continue throughout the pre-sale period leading up to the launch with no fees on changes or cancellations; some conditions apply.

"We welcome Pivot Airlines to the Region of Waterloo. Many residents will benefit from this new service to Ottawa and Montreal," said Regional Chair Karen Redman.



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Toronto island airport customs preclearance will see service expand to eight new U.S. cities — and boost passenger traffic by 40%

Original Article by Jacob Lorinc, Toronto Star, Dec. 3, 2021

[For full article click here](#)

A U.S. customs preclearance facility slated to open at Toronto's island airport in 2023 will help boost passenger traffic by 40 per cent and give travellers access to new destinations, including New York's LaGuardia Airport, airport officials told Toronto's city council.

Gene Cabral, executive vice-president at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, told councillors on Wednesday that the long-awaited facility for U.S. Customs and Border Protection could be ready to open in 18 to 24 months, pending government approval.

The preclearance system lets U.S.-bound travellers pass through border security before stepping foot on their plane, and would give airlines operating out of Billy Bishop the opportunity to expand routes to American airports where preclearance is required.

Airlines departing Billy Bishop, like Porter Airlines, would then have access to airports like LaGuardia, in New York City.

In a report issued last week, Nieuport Aviation, the company that owns the passenger terminal at Billy Bishop airport, said it expects total passenger traffic to jump from 3.3 million in 2022 to 4.6 million in 2023 with the inclusion of a preclearance facility.

Air Canada withdraws from federal government aid deal as position improves

Original Article by Christopher Reynolds, The Canadian Press, Nov. 19, 2021

For full article click [here](#)

Air Canada is withdrawing from further federal relief after borrowing more than \$1 billion to pay back customers whose flights were cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, the company said Friday.

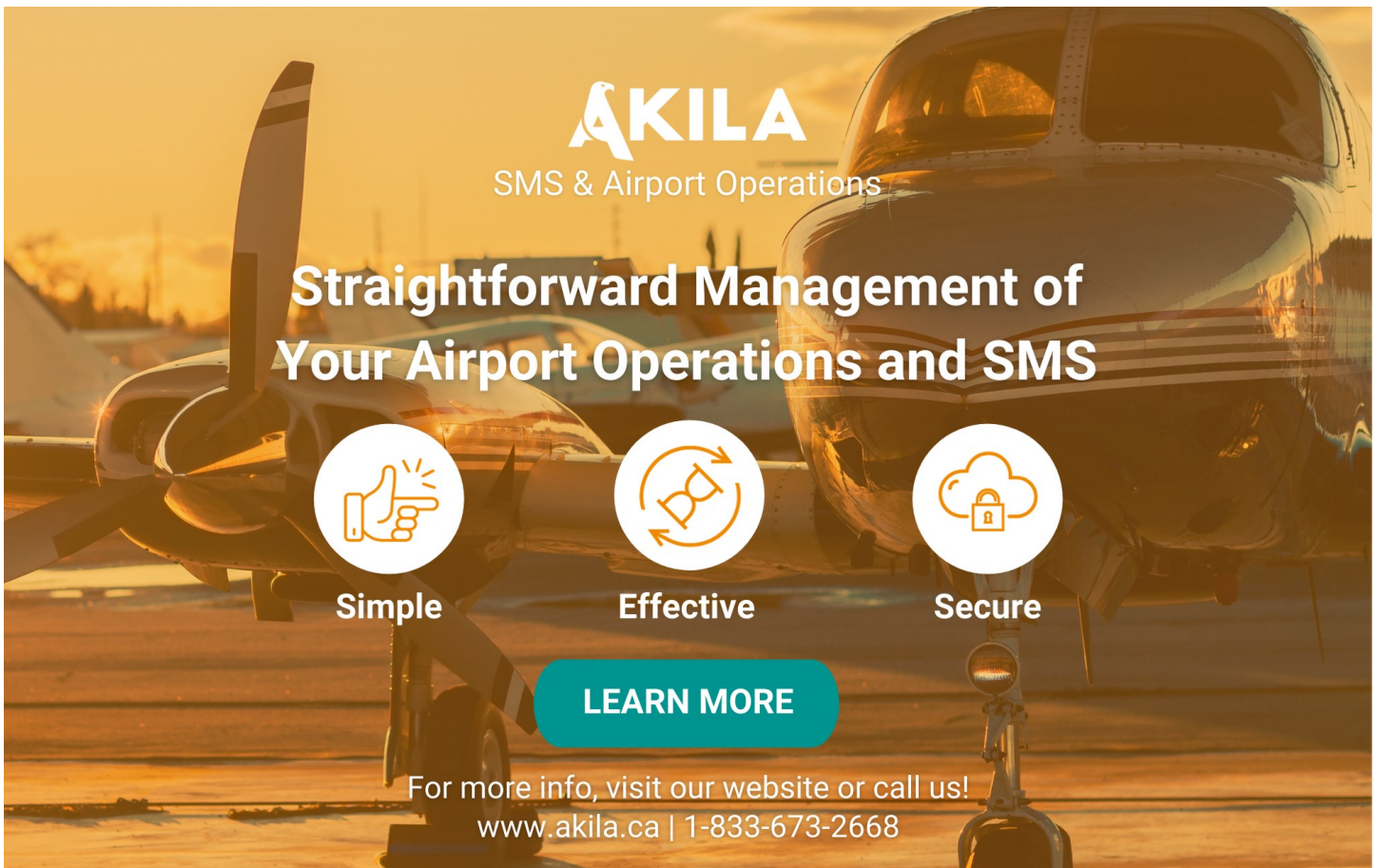
Though Ottawa retains an equity stake in the airline, Air Canada's exit from the multibillion-dollar rescue deal marks "another convincing sign of our progress" and liquidity, CEO Michael Rousseau said in a release.

"Air Canada's recovery from COVID-19 continues. We are recalling employees, adding new routes and frequencies to our network, and restoring services," said Rousseau, noting Air Canada secured \$7.1 billion in financing last quarter.

The airline reached a \$5.9-billion deal with Ottawa in April for an aid package that made loans available to the carrier, but also required pledges to cap executive compensation at \$1 million and restore service to regional airports.




The Montreal-based company said it borrowed about \$1.2 billion out of the \$1.4 billion available - at a 1.2 per cent annual interest rate - under the government credit facility dedicated to passenger reimbursement, "with the money going directly to customers." Other loans available under the agreement were not used.

About 58 per cent of eligible customers requested refunds, including some who were not covered by the federal loan. The rest opted for flight credits, Air Canada said.



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