

Airport Management Council of Ontario

Sept/Oct 2020

Volume 9, Issue 5

The Airport Environment and You

# **Representing Ontario's Airports**







## Airport Management Council of Ontario

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

#### Dear Members,

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Airport Management Council of Ontario. AMCO is an organization that with your support has grown to include airports and aerodromes from around Ontario and neighbouring provinces, boasts nearly 60 business members from around North America, and is the largest airports association in Canada by membership.

This year marks the hardest year on record for aviation, one with greater losses than those brought on by any other event in recent memory, one that has seen some of our members closing their doors and risks shuttering many others.

Through it all AMCO has done its best is to support our members and our staff. We closed our offices early out of an abundance of caution and have largely remained remote during the pandemic. We supported our members through monthly calls and later by compiling the effects on airports and aerodromes brought on by COVID-19 into a report to the Provincial Government. We have supported our sister organizations at the national level, forwarding and communicating the asks laid out by the Regional Community Airports of Canada, and partnering with the Canadian Airports Council to publish an editorial in local newspapers to educate Ontarians on the needs of our members.

AMCO continues to strive to meet our mission and vision, to be a leader for Ontario's airports and aerodromes and to provide advocacy and education to you, our members. This year success in this regard looks a little different; but is more important than ever.

With that in mind AMCO will be bringing our members an online speaker series this fall, and will continue to bring you the speakers you want to hear from for as long as it takes until we can meet again in person. We have postponed our Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Trade Show but have high hopes that we will be able to meet at this time next year.

We wish all our members well during the ongoing health crisis and are thinking of your families, and the families of all those affected at your airport, aerodrome, business, or association this year.

Stay safe,

Aaron Lougheed Executive Director, AMCO

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#### The Federal Government Must Support Ontario Airports

Original Article by Aaron Lougheed, The Spec, August 31, 2020 For full article click here



The travel lockdown caused by COVID-19 has been devastating. With the current travel restrictions in force, Ontario air service was down over 90 per cent in April, May and June. In the face of further travel restrictions, the aviation sector could take years to recover.

Faced with devastating financial losses, job losses and mounting debt, airports throughout the province and the communities, local economies and travellers they serve, are under threat. If ever there was a time for the federal government to get involved to ensure the integrity and long-term viability of Canada's airports, it is now.

The pandemic has brought two related crises to a head: First, we are seeing the limits bursting on a user pay model for passenger air travel in Canada that has served us fairly well for the past 28 years. Second, smaller airports with limited revenues and tax bases, which were already under financial stress before the pandemic, are now in real jeopardy. Aviation is a very capital-intensive industry. In markets with low traffic volumes, it has always been a challenge to generate enough revenue to cover the cost of operations and ongoing infrastructure maintenance. Now with traffic volumes down an average of 90 per cent of normal levels, some of our airports may not survive without government assistance.



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AIRPORT PERFORMANCE

How we make it happen

#### Swoop Announces Start Date at Toronto Pearson

Original Article by Staff, Travelweek Group, August 27, 2020 For full article click here



Swoop will be resuming operations at Toronto Pearson Airport on Oct. 25 with a mix of both domestic and international routes. Like all other airlines, the ultra-lowcost carrier was forced to ground all regular international and transborder flights in March due to the global pandemic, focusing instead on repatriating over 2,300 Canadian travellers.

Its new winter schedule, including the destinations and routes it will be serving, will be released in September. Hamilton will continue to be served as part of Swoop's

network. "Travel is beginning to rebound and we want to help encourage Canadians to reconnect with family and friends or plan that long-awaited vacation," says Charles Duncan, President. "With the robust health and safety measures we have put in place on each of our flights, travellers in Toronto will now have more affordable air travel options than ever before."

Deborah Flint, President and CEO of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, says she welcomes Swoop's decision to begin operations at Toronto Pearson. "The industry has changed significantly and we are focused on world-class health and safety measures that will ultimately reinvigorate travel at Pearson and throughout the region."

#### Health Officials Looking Into Whether Airport COVID-19 Tests Can Replace Quarantine Measures

Original Article by Catharine Tunney, CBC News, Aug 28, 2020 For full article click here



During a health briefing in Ottawa today, Dr. Theresa Tam was asked whether the government is looking at testing passengers at international airports instead of requiring them to quarantine for two weeks — a measure which would drastically reduce their time in isolation. "Absolutely. We'll be actively looking at those options," Tam said, adding that more research is required before any changes are introduced. "As we look at options going forwards and we're sort of reducing the more restrictive measures at the border, how we apply testing in that context is being actively explored."

Tam offered no timeline and stressed that the Public Health Agency still needs to conduct more research into how mass testing would work, and would have to reach out to local health authorities about implementation. "A bit more data on, you know, what happens when we test travellers at different time periods after they enter Canada, to see if those studies will yield us some information that we can then apply more broadly," she said.

For now, Tam said, the 14-day isolation requirement remains in effect. Her comments come as Reuters reports that Air Canada is planning a voluntary COVID-19 test trial for passengers arriving at Pearson airport in Toronto, the country's largest airport, to help persuade the federal government to end strict quarantine rules. According to a presentation delivered by Air Canada Chief Financial Officer Michael Rousseau and

obtained by Reuters, the airline is working with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority and expects to begin a trial after the Labour Day holiday on Sept. 7. It would consist of a test at Toronto's Pearson Airport followed by two tests at home.



#### Interest in Aviation Taking Off During Pandemic

Original Article by Ellwood Shreve, Kingston This Week, September 21, 2020 For full article click here

Safety is the top priority when it comes to flying and that has been extended to social events organized by a local pilot organization.

The Chatham chapter of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) had COVID-19 safety measures in place when holding a fly-in for several members of Trillium Aviators Ontario on Sept. 19 at the Chatham-Kent Municipal Airport.

Local COPA chapter vice-president Aaron McPhail said restrictions resulting from the pandemic has limited the general aviation activities so "this is an exciting event for us." He said planes, including single and twin-engine as well as some heavy aircraft, arrived from as far away as Ottawa for the fly-in, that included a socially-distanced barbecue lunch.

#### Ontario Government Gives \$1.5M Toward Expansion of Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Runway

Original Article by Daina Goldfinger, Global News, August 14, 2020 For full article click here



The Ontario government announced on Friday that it will give \$1.5 million to Simcoe County for the expansion of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport's runway. "The Lake Simcoe Regional Airport is a gateway to our community, and this expansion provides an opportunity for significant growth and increased economic activity right here in Oro-Medonte," Barrie–Springwater– Oro-Medonte MPP Doug Downey said in a statement. "I appreciate that the ministry of economic development has seen the great value in this project and understands the significant

impacts it will bring to rural Ontario."

The project involves widening the local airport's runway from 100 feet to 150 feet as part of phase one of the planned expansion. Currently, the existing runway is too short and narrow for large, corporate jet aircraft, most notably when there's adverse weather conditions.

"The expansion of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport runway will help to attract and encourage new economic development opportunities not only in Oro-Medonte but throughout the County of Simcoe," Ontario's economic development, job creation and trade minister, Vic Fedeli, said in a statement.



#### **Council Goes to Bat for Sault Airport**

Original Article by Dan Gray, Sault Online, September 15, 2020 For full article click here

Sault Ste. Marie city council passed a resolution asking different levels of government for help funding the airport.

According to Terry Bos, the president and CEO of the Sault Ste. Marie Airport and Development Corporation, the proposal comes as a result of efforts made by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

"At this time there has been no support provided to the aviation industry from any level of government," said Bos in an email. "Some of us by nature of our ownership have been able to participate in the CEWS (Wage Subsidy) but it comes nowhere near covering the loss of revenue that has been sustained by regional sized airports such as us that have seen almost all revenue dry up from the restrictions on travel such as the quarantine act."



# WINTER TOUGH:



#### Sarnia to Consider Selling, Changing Operations at City Airport

Original Article by Tyler Kula, The Observer, September 17, 2020 For full article click here



Sarnia's 1950s-built airport has become a potential tax drain for the city, so council is expected in the coming weeks to decide whether to revamp it or sell.

Since Air Canada, the only airline operating out of Sarnia for years, stopped commercial flights in March, revenue at the airport has plummeted 80 per cent, according to an economic development report by Toronto-based MDB Insight presented to council Sept. 14.

If operations don't change, Scottsdale Aviation, the company that has run the airport for Sarnia since 1997 and, prior to that, for the

federal government before Canada divested the asset to municipal control, will need \$40,000-per-month subsidies from the city to keep going, said Scottsdale's Clare Webb.

"What we're concentrating on right now is finding another carrier, trying to find someone who would take on Sarnia," he said. Selling doesn't seem a viable option, he said, but acknowledged it's an airport with "minimal revenue right now."

#### **30-Minute Flights from Toronto to Kingston to Start Next Month**

Original Article by Karen Doradea, Daily Hive, August 31, 2020 For full article click here



FLYGTA is adding Kingston, Ontario, to its list of destinations starting next month where flights will take off to and from downtown Toronto. According to City and Tourism Kingston, starting September 10 FLYGTA will add the new Ontario destination, making it the first stage in work toward daily air service from Thursday to Sunday and a link to the Porter Airline network.

"We are thrilled that our beautiful airport will welcome visitors who will arrive aware of and primed to follow our COVID-19 measures and who will come ready and excited to support

our local restaurants, artisans, hotels, attractions, and so much more," said Megan Knott, Executive Director of Tourism Kingston.

Those who plan to take a trip will be notified of Kingston's COVID-19 precautions, as well as special packages that can combine return airfare, hotel, and regional attractions. "It is our mission to promote the local tourism industry, but the number one priority of every Canadian at this time is public health. This is why the City and Tourism Kingston have worked closely with FLYGTA to ensure that every safety measure is in place so that when regional travellers arrive they know what will be expected of them while staying in Kingston," said Knott.

#### Air Canada Orders First Batch of 25,000 Rapid COVID-19 Testing Kits

Original Article by Staff, CBC News, October 1, 2020 For full article click here



Air Canada has ordered 25,000 testing kits that can detect COVID-19 in someone in as little as five minutes, a key hurdle for an industry that's desperately trying to make it safe and possible for travellers to fly again. The first batch of tests will be for employee volunteers, now that the devices by Abbott Laboratories have been approved for use in Canada by federal health and safety authorities, the airline said Thursday.

Current tests have to be administered at testing centres, which have been plagued by long lineups, and results can take days. The new test is faster and requires a nasal or throat specimen to be collected from a patient on a swab and inserted into an analyzer to detect the presence of the virus. Positive results come back in as little as five minutes. Negative results can take about 13 minutes to verify.

The airline is moving ahead with the plan after a testing phase when it partnered with McMaster University and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority to test arriving international travellers at Toronto's Pearson airport. "Preliminary results from the study indicate testing can help protect customers and facilitate the safe relaxation of government travel restrictions," Air Canada said.

#### Council Asked to Purchase Solar Powered LED Airport Runway Lights

Original Article by Brent Sleightholm, Elliot Lake Today, September 26, 2020 For full article click here



Daryl Halloch, Elliot Lake's Director of Public Works, is asking City Council to approve spending \$316,400 plus HST to enter into a contract with Approach Navigation Systems Ltd. of Moncton, New Brunswick for a Solar Powered Runway Lighting System at the Elliot Lake Airport. In his written report coming to council Monday night, Halloch noted, "The airport consists of a 4,500-foot runway which is equipped with a lighting system containing 113 wired runway lights which allow planes to identify the runway at night and during foggy weather."

"The current runway lighting system is close to 40 years old and consists of two older transformers and 9,000 feet of cable running underground from light to light. Over the past several years, the system has been showing its age with several lights no longer working due to the underground cable splicing, which is a challenge in itself to try and identify the location.

"A power study was completed for our area to verify that Elliot Lake would be a good candidate for solar lighting with enough sunlight to supply the battery-operated lights, without ever having to worry about them being depleted."

"The LED solar lights eliminate the use of underground cables and transformers and the energy cost savings would cover the cost of batteries that come with a full 5-year warranty. "All lights will be mounted in cement. They are certified by Transport Canada and can be adjusted anywhere from a height of 14 inches to 24 inches and are operational in temperatures as cold as – 40 degrees Celsius.



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#### Start.ca Sponsors London Airport in Locally Inspired Makeover

Original Article by Staff, Free Press, September 23, 2020 For full article click here



The London-based telecom business partnered with London International Airport to put new locally inspired installations in the terminal, a project that includes a more than three-metre high living wall.

"It seemed like a really good opportunity to express how much we appreciate London and what the community has done for us over the last 25 years," Start.ca marketing manager Janet Smith said. "We're so thankful for the partners we have in London."

The plant wall is near the departures entrance inside the airport and features an assortment of greenery and mosses native to Ontario and North America. The wall design includes a nearly four metre, 250 lb. live-edge wood piece sourced from a property in nearby Thamesford.

Start.ca also gave two of the airport's plane boarding bridges aesthetic overhauls with vinyl wrap that depicts well-known London landmarks. The installations are meant to make an impression on first-time London visitors and capture the city's vibrant and creative spirit, Smith said.

The airport approached Start.ca last year about marketing opportunities at the site, Smith said. Start.ca's installations will be in place for two years. Smith declined to disclose the cost of the project, but said it is fully funded by Start.ca.

#### First Walk the Runway at Pembroke and Area Airport Soars to Great Heights

Original Article by Anthony Dixon, The Beacon Herald, September 16, 2020 For full article click here

The first ever Walk the Runway fundraising event at the Pembroke and Area Airport saw 172 walkers raise just over \$4,300 for Project Runway. Organizers were pleased with the public's enthusiasm for the event, held on Sept. 2, in which you were able to walk the taxiways and the runway of CYTA (the Pembroke and Area Airport), something that you just can't regularly do. In addition, with the event taking place beginning in the late afternoon and running well after dark, some walkers were treated to a walk on the runway with it lit up just as a pilot would see it while landing at night. Walkers could choose from a 1.4 kilometre (Griffon) walk along the taxiways and a portion of the runway, or from a 4.2 kilometre (Chinook) walk along the entirety of the runway.







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#### A Closer Look at Sioux Lookout Municipal Airport: The Hub of the North

Original Article by Staff, Northern Ontario Business, Fall 2020 For full article click here



"The Hub of the North" now facilitates travel on a 24-hour basis to and from all northern communities in Northwestern Ontario, averaging 30,000 movements annually. It serves as a regional centre that provides services and goods to the surrounding region and to 29 remote First Nations communities. It also serves as a hub for patients from the local Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre.

Because of its valuable services to the northern communities, the airport acts as a major transfer point between the southern and northern communities. Its main objective is to enhance the airport's role within the community as an economic catalyst while achieving a high level of excellence in its operation as a safe and secure facility.

The existing terminal building was experiencing constraints and capacity shortfalls, which prompted a discussion to build an expansion of approximately 1000m2 to meet current and projected passenger demands. The plans would include a renovation of the existing building as well as adding an expansion to double its size.

The expansion was completed in 2018 with the new design helping to alleviate congested passenger queuing lines and adding concession food court tables to address lack of seating. The project also improved accessibility and passengers' overall travel experience. On the operational side, the expansion also provides airlines with proper baggage make-up areas and more adequate spaces for expanded services. With the new design, the airport is now able to meet its current needs and provide growth opportunities to both current and potential new tenants.

A certified aerodrome, The Sioux Lookout Airport also serves as a base for Ornge, Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, private aircraft owners and many charters from both Canada and the United States. The airport is currently served by three primary scheduled air carriers – Perimeter Aviation, Wasaya Airways and North Star Air but is easily accessible with connecting flights to carriers including, but not limited to, Air Canada, WestJet, United Airlines and Delta Airlines.

#### Precise ParkLink Wins BOMA Toronto Pinnacle Above & Beyond Award

Original Article Press Release, September 30, 2020 For full article click here



Precise ParkLink was announced as the recipient of the Pinnacle Above and Beyond Award. This award recognizes Precise ParkLink for its extraordinary parking management services, program recommendations, and innovative live central monitoring facility. The award is presented on the merits of a parking technology solution developed for a mixed-use development property in Toronto, where the ownership and management teams were looking to minimize operating expenses without sacrificing logistics and customer service quality.

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#### Waterloo Region Inks Deal with Pivot Airlines to Fly Out of Airport

Original Article by Staff, CBC News, September 15, 2020 For full article click here



Region of Waterloo council has authorized a deal that will bring Pivot Airlines to the region's airport. The regional and charter airline plans to fly between Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Windsor. It is owned by Binder Capital Corporation, a private equity firm based in Calgary.

The region says the start of service for the airline remains "contingent upon a loosening of COVID-19 travel-related restrictions" and the "receipt of the necessary regulatory approvals.""We've been putting in a lot of time and effort into the airport," Regional Coun. Tom Galloway said Tuesday morning during a special council meeting.

"They are an airline that I think we can do a lot of business with over the long term, and I think they're going to serve our community very, very well."

#### Conestoga to Offer New Agriculture Program at Brantford Airport

Original Article by Michelle Ruby, St. Thomas Times Journal, October 2, 2020 For full article click here

Conestoga College will operate a new program from its Brantford airport location that will prepare students for careers in agriculture.

Phil McColeman, MP for Brantford-Brant, said the agricultural equipment program is the perfect fit for the County of Brant, where the airport is located, and the region. "Conestoga's airport campus is a premier training centre, delivering the skills that lead to meaningful, well-paying jobs," said McColeman. The development of the pilot program was initiated by the County of Brant's economic development department, along with Conestoga College and in collaboration with the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation and the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

# **Question today** *Imagine tomorrow* Create for the future





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#### **Airports Need Lift, Timmins Officials Argue**

Original Article by Thomas Perry, The Sault Star, October 1, 2020 For full article click here



As a municipality, Timmins was unable to apply for funding under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

Dave Dayment sits on the board of the Regional Community Airports of Canada — an organization that prepared a report on the impact of the pandemic on its facilities back in May. "It outlines, at early stages, where the majority of regional airports were and the bleak picture they faced going forward," he said. "This was sent to local MPs, as well as senior federal government officials and cabinet ministers, with no movement.

"Our local Northern Ontario regional airports group did much the same with a snapshot of our operations, decrease in passengers, etc." The airport manager notes, as outlined in the report, any other business would likely have shut down and waited out storm, rather than losing so much money. "Days after our call with MPs we received evacuees from Fort Hope, due to fires," Dayment said. "We are also seeing medevacs, firefighting (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), charters for NAPS (Nishnawbe Aski Police Service) to move officers into and out of northern communities, food shipments etc. "We provide a vital service and can't shut down."

During its Sept. 8 meeting, city council passed a resolution formally requesting the governments to take action to assist the Timmins Victor M. Power Municipal Airport and similar facilities, sooner, rather than later.



#### Sundridge South River Airpark to Have New Asphalt Runway

Original Article by Lee McConnell, Almaguin News, September 18, 2020 For full article click here



The new asphalt runway at the Sundridge South River Airpark will soon be clear for takeoff. "It's kind of a game changer," said owner operator Dave Jenkins. He said the asphalt runway will make it easier for pilots to land and may allow for other pilots who were hesitant to land on grass to now consider the airport as an option. According to Jenkins, this could also mean people could now consider purchasing a cottage in Almaguin and fly rather than drive.

"We're really hoping to make it a lot busier than it has been,"

Jenkins said. Jenkins said they're still hoping to cater to smaller aircraft and wants anyone who lives nearby to know the level of traffic to the airpark won't change too drastically. In addition to the new runway, Jenkins said they've also renovated the terminal to accommodate pilots, upgraded the docks to allow better float plane access, and found an aircraft mechanic to work at the airport, allowing pilots to have an in-house option for repairs and maintenance.

Jenkins plans to eventually build hangars to allow planes to be stored there, something he thinks will be a boon for the airport in the future. "We'd like to make it an affordable destination for light general aviation aircraft," he said.

#### Pearson Airport Implementing New Tech That Eliminates 99.999 Per Cent of Bacteria

Original Article by Matt Dionne, In Brampton, October 7, 2020 For full article click here



The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), which operates and maintains Toronto Pearson, announced the deployment of CleanSlate UV Sanitizers, an innovative technology that uses hospital-grade UV light to sanitize objects like cell phones, wallets, keys and other potential germ -carrying items commonly found in airports.

"The Greater Toronto Airports Authority is committed to a science-based approach that prioritizes the health and

wellbeing of passengers and airport workers. That starts with using proven technology and expertise, backed by a record of success in the healthcare field," Deborah Flint, president and CEO of GTAA, said in a news release. "CleanSlate's UV technology is another valuable layer of protection in our Healthy Airport transformation, maintaining our commitment to stringent hygiene and sanitation protocols," she continued.

The sanitizers, which will be installed in 10 different locations throughout the airport, eliminate 99.999 per cent of bacteria found on common, hand-held items--the average phone is covered in 18 times more bacteria than a toilet seat--in just 20 seconds, completely without touching the device. "We are excited to be a part of the GTAA's innovative efforts to protect staff and travellers" Taylor Mann, CEO and co-founder of CleanSlate UV, said in the same release.



# Airport Management Council of Ontario

#### Sept/Oct 2020

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

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